



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
Lewiston, ID 83501
(888) 743-1501
(888) 798-5280 (Propane)
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

C L E A R W A T E R P O W E R

Your furnace needs to *breathe*.
So do you.



Dirty filters force your furnace to run longer and can lead to long-term damage. Replace your filters every three months. It's a cheap and easy way to save energy and save money.

It's your power to save.

clearwaterpower.com/togetherwesave



171 Linden Way
P.O. Box 398
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676-9146

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

.....

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Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Ione

Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's main objective is to provide reliable electric service to its members at the lowest cost consistent with good business practice.

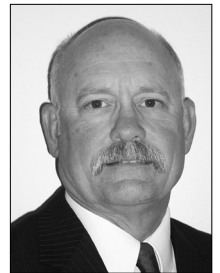
OR-2

Welcome Back, New Director Todd Lindsay

Dear Members:

Your Columbia Basin Cooperative Board of Directors recently appointed Todd Lindsay of the Sand Hollow area to fill the vacancy in Zone 3 of the cooperative. Todd is no stranger to the board, having served on the board from 2002 through 2014.

As his children have graduated high school and gone off to college, Todd again has the time and willingness to serve his cooperative. The Zone 3 position was vacated by the resignation of Daniel Lindsay. We thank Dan for his years of service and commitment to our co-op, and wish him the best.



Town Hall Membership Meeting a Success

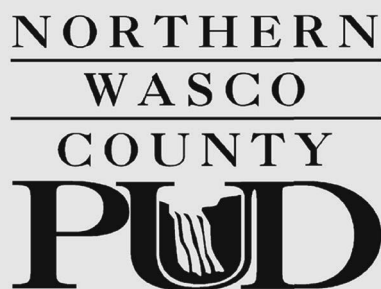
Your co-op held a membership town hall meeting at the Legion Hall in Ione on February 7. The turnout was good, with more than 30 residents attending. I explained several topics of activity at your co-op and answered questions from members. Watch for upcoming town hall-style meetings throughout the service territory.

Hydropower is Important to Us All

As our legislators in Salem debate the merits of carbon-emission reduction and related taxation efforts on us all, please keep in mind that your electric power comes almost entirely from carbon-free hydropower, which is renewable, efficient, clean, secure and flexible. Hydropower allows for the growth of other renewable resources, and is affordable. Public hydropower has been, and continues to be, a great source of electricity for Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

Best regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager



2345 River Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 296-2226 FAX 298-3320
www.nwascopud.org

Board of Directors

Dan Williams, President
Connie Karp, Vice President
Roger Howe, Secretary
Clay Smith, Treasurer
Howard Gonser, Director

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Rd. The public is always welcome.

Our Mission

To provide reliable, competitively-priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

Our Core Values and Beliefs

Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

- ▶ **Public ownership and local control.**
- ▶ **Integrity.**
- ▶ **Keeping power rates as low as possible.**
- ▶ **Providing quality essential services.**
- ▶ **Quality customer service.**
- ▶ **Community involvement.**

OR-3

Manager's Report



"Future-proofing" and infrastructure investments

Northern Wasco County PUD has always embraced its history and traditions, but that hasn't kept us from looking forward. The reason is simple: serving you, our customer-owners requires constant adjusting to meet your changing needs.

Today's interconnected and increasingly complex world, where customers have more choices than ever, is driving organizations like ours to adjust the products and services we offer to provide more transparency and vision to you about your energy use,

where it comes from, options for how you pay for it, as well as to how we operate and make the decisions to run the organization. Our intent is to give you the services you desire, so when the day comes where you can choose between multiple energy service providers, you will still choose us, and be greatly satisfied with your choice. Doing business and interacting with us should be easy, that is our responsibility and goal.

Admittedly, your PUD typically isn't on the cutting edge of technology adoption, we generally wait for the bugs to be worked out a bit and for the initial costs to come down. So, as you consider things like installing solar panels, battery storage systems, purchasing an electric vehicle, buying that "smart" home appliance, or other "Internet of Things" (IoT) enabled device, know that we're getting ready to integrate it safely, reliably, and in a cost-conscious manner. Ultimately, those are your personal choices, we simply have the obligation to not hinder their effectiveness, or to be detractors to your individual and collective successes.

The term "future-proofing" has been used as of late to explain some of these investments and trends. I think that is very appropriate, especially as the future is now. As such, we are continuing to reinvest in the District's infrastructure to keep it safe and reliable, and to provide those expanded products and services that have become part of daily life over the last decade. Pre-pay options, integrating more renewable-energy supplies self-generated at your home or business, real-time energy consumption information, easy same-day start/stop services, easy predictable interconnection or business expansion options, enhanced outage notifications and response, partnering amongst other public and private sector organizations for the benefit of the community, those are all things that your Board of Directors, staff and I are working toward for the near-term future. We are confident you will be happy with the outcome.

Roger Kline

General Manager



P.O. Box 31 • 1009 F St.
Nespelem, WA 99155
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
Phone: (509) 634-4571
Fax: (509) 634-8138
email: nvec@nvec.org
website: www.nvec.org

For after-hours emergencies,
call 634-4571 to page
an on-duty employee.

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Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Washington's one-call center, or your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.

**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
Washington's statewide one-call center**



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

**P.O. Box 1180
Philomath, OR 97370
(541) 929-3124
(800) 872-9036**

LOCAL OFFICES

**6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370**

**1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355**

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Terry Plagmann
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Kevin Christopher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Tony Wilson
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

Water Supply Outlook

A combination of above-normal snowpack in the upper Columbia River Basin and forecasts for a cool, wet spring provide an encouraging outlook for water supply in the mainstem of the Columbia and Snake rivers for April through September.

The National Weather Service's Northwest Forecast Center predicts the upper Columbia will experience a summer water supply ranging from normal to above normal compared to the 30-year average.

The forecast for The Dalles Dam is now at 107 percent of normal. The forecast for the lower Snake River at Lower Granite Dam is 106 percent of normal. These numbers are based on current precipitation, temperature, snowpack and runoff observations combined with climate forecasts.

Whether the current forecast holds depends on the accuracy of the climate outlook for the next two months. While locally we have experienced warmer-than-normal temperatures in February, the February-March outlook for the region calls for wetter and cooler conditions compared with the average.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Every year, CPI employees and members take to heart the importance of saving energy and making sure the energy we do consume is as clean as possible. 2017 was no different.

With numerous programs targeting residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural energy sectors, CPI was successful in achieving more than our share of efficiency and renewable energy efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

Here are a few of the highlights.

- Saved approximately 2 million kilowatt-hours—enough to power 152 homes for a year.
- Approximately 1,100 members took advantage of our residential programs for a savings of more than 1.1 million kWh.
- Members bought 5,500 LED bulbs and 108 heat pump water heaters from our product center.
- Twenty-nine businesses took advantage of programs in the commercial, industrial and agricultural programs for a total savings of more than 850,000 kWh.
- Forty-seven members added more than 318 kW of new solar generation and participated in our net-metering program. A total of 280 CPI members now generate more than 1.5 MW of renewable energy—more than any cooperative in the state.
- More than 830,000 kWh of renewable energy was generated by our members—enough to power 60 homes for a year.
- CPI's portion of the Coffin Butte Landfill Gas Generation Project north of Corvallis generated about 3.5 million kWh of renewable energy—enough to power 250 homes for a year.

Visit our website at www.cpi.coop or call our efficiency and renewable experts at (800) 876-9036 to find out more about our many programs. Also remember that thanks to our abundant hydropower resource, CPI's total emission output for members' electricity needs remains more than 97 percent carbon free.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Prosser Office
402 7th St., P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Report an Outage: 509-786-2913
Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org

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Scott Fisher, District 6
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Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekzut, Operations Manager
Steve Catlow, Manager of Finance and Administration
Jeff Bastow, I.T. Manager
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Terry Mundorf, Attorney
HDR, Consulting Engineer
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor



WA-7

Manager's Message



MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER

Dear Members,

You may have heard about the federal corporate income tax cut that was passed in 2017, that reduced the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent. Many investor-owned utilities like Pacific Power and Cascade Natural Gas have announced that they will be passing these savings on to their customers. You may be wondering if Benton REA will do the same.

Benton REA is a locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative that operates at cost to deliver affordable and reliable power to its members. As a not-for-profit, Benton REA is exempt from paying federal corporate income taxes. Therefore, there are no federal income tax cut savings for Benton REA to pass on to its members.

You are already benefiting from federal corporate income tax not being imposed upon Benton REA. This is just one reason Benton REA and its members are more powerful together.

Electric cooperatives, like Benton REA, are locally owned by the members they serve. We strive to keep rates affordable for all members and all net margins are allocated to our members each year in the form of capital credits. Because we are locally owned and controlled we are more powerful together and automatically pass any savings through to you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bradshaw, General Manager
mikeb@bentonrea.org



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

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Vice President

Jeff Wenholz

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Bryan Wolfe

Lee Docken

John Otis

Steve Platt

Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

Umatilla Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that sells energy and invests in and supports other services to improve the quality of life in our communities.

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

At BPA, a Plan That Looks to the Future

Seventy cents of every dollar we spend at Umatilla Electric goes to pay for power we deliver to your homes, farms and businesses.

Our power comes from PNGC, the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative, a group of 15 electric cooperatives from across five states that purchase the bulk of their power from BPA, the Bonneville Power Administration. On average, we pay about \$6.5 million each month for BPA services and power we distribute to UEC members.



So it comes with great concern that BPA finds itself in the political crosshairs once again.

Last year, the Trump Administration proposed privatizing the BPA grid. Then in February, the proposed federal budget for 2019 further called for a change in how BPA sets rates for power it markets from Northwest dams. It would authorize BPA to charge market-based rates for electricity, similar to for-profit investor-owned utilities, rather than current cost-based rates.

Any proposal that puts BPA's mission at risk of providing clean, reliable and affordable electricity is a threat to communities throughout the Northwest. These changes would result in bigger bills for utility customers and threaten the region's prosperity.

The utility industry already has been disrupted with additional uncertainties placed on it with increased renewable mandates, carbon legislation, market fluctuations, and environmental and conservation goals. If

adopted, the proposal to change BPA's rate structure would weaken our economic future in Umatilla and Morrow counties and throughout the Northwest.

As BPA goes, so goes UEC and to its credit, BPA is keeping its eye on the ball. It has just released a 2018-2023 strategic plan that describes the unique environmental and cultural challenges facing the Northwest public power industry, and reflects and addresses the needs of its customers. BPA's major goals include:

- Strengthen financial health by meeting objectives for cost management, liquidity, debt utilization, debt capacity and credit ratings.
- Modernize assets and system operations to leverage and enable industry change.
- Provide competitive power products and services.
- Meet transmission customer needs efficiently and responsively.

The strategic plan, available online at www.bpa.gov, is a refreshing look to the future. UEC supports BPA, thru PNGC, in its strategic initiatives and we look forward to the robust discussions and the difficult choices in refining BPA's mission for the benefit of all throughout the region. The plan is a needed adjustment to fit the changing times.

Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**105 E. 4th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
Office phone: (541) 296-2740
Toll-free phone: (800) 341-8580
www.wascoelectric.com**

Office Hours:

*Monday - Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

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Robert Hammel.....	Director
Jim McNamee	Director
DeOra Patton	Director

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BJ Ayres	The Dalles Lineman
Robert Gridley	The Dalles Lineman
Wesley Woods	Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser	Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder	Maupin Foreman

Mission Statement

*"Wasco Electric Cooperative Inc.
will provide its members with
competitively priced, reliable energy
and related services."*

OR-9

Serving Members' Needs Every Day

When electric cooperative members look at the seven cooperative principles, many may question if they live up to the first one: voluntary and open membership.

There is a two-part answer.

First, it is important to remember that when Wasco Electric Cooperative formed, every potential member had the option to refuse service.

While it may be hard to believe today, there are numerous stories from electric cooperatives throughout the country where the farmer said, "No thanks. We are doing fine with kerosene."

Of course, eventually they changed their minds and became members of the cooperative.

Due to the incredible cost of offering electric service, most people and businesses only have one choice if they want to connect to the grid and receive electricity.

While that may change in the future due to rooftop solar or other generation sources, the best option for most people for safe, reliable and affordable power is from their local electric cooperative.

Today, electric cooperatives focus on the second part of the principle: open membership. All residents and businesses in WEC's service territory are welcome to receive power.

WEC strives to ensure your membership has value to you not just through the service of electricity, but by being an active part of the community.

The cooperative offers and welcomes your participation in the governance of the organization through a democratically elected board of directors.

As a locally owned and controlled utility, WEC is in a better position to understand the needs of its members and can be quicker to react to help ensure the membership receives the best service possible.

Members are welcome to suggest improvements to the cooperative's operations. Unlike large investor-owned utilities often with millions of customers, you can be assured your ideas are read by a real person in real time.

All cooperatives—whether it is your credit union, farm cooperative, telephone cooperative or any other of the 29,000 cooperatives that exist in the United States today—live by these seven principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Members' economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

By integrating all of these principles together, your cooperative is able to serve your needs every day.

Courtesy of Adam Schwartz, founder of The Cooperative Way.

Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.,
Roseburg, Oregon
Phone (541) 673-6616
(800) 233-2733

Officers

President..... Evan Barnes
Vice President.. Robert Poage
Secretary..... Shirley Cairns
Treasurer..... Dick McHaffie
Director..... Larry Shipley
Director..... Terry Nelson
Director..... Carey Weatherly

General Manager

James K. Brooks

Office Manager/CFO

David Western

Superintendent

Todd Sherwood

Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

Douglas Electric Cooperative 80th Annual Meeting

Saturday • April 7

The Annual Meeting of the Douglas Electric Cooperative members will be held in the Community Conference Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg, Oregon on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

8:30 Registration - Booth Displays & Refreshments

10:30 Business Meeting

Call to Order - Flag Salute	- Evan Barnes, President
Approval of Minutes	- Shirley Cairns, Secretary
President's Report	- Evan Barnes
Manager's Report	- Keith Brooks
Finance Report	- David Western
Introduction of Guests, Retirees and Employees	- Keith Brooks

11:30 Meeting Wrap Up

Unfinished Business
Report of Election Results
Door Prize Drawings

12:00 Meeting Adjourned - Lunch Served

Fairgrounds Catering - Dan Hults, Kim Perry & Staff

All members are encouraged to attend.

Columbia Power Co-op



**P.O. Box 97
Monument, OR 97864
(541) 934-2311
Toll free (888) 203-7638**

DIRECTORS

President Paul Walton
Vice President Adam Temple
Sec./Treasurer Brian Campbell
Dan Cannon
Dave Humphreys
Cheryl Jenison
Judy Wilson

MANAGER

Troy Cox

The board of directors meets
the second Monday of each month.

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

Co-op office 934-2311
Ed Andersen 934-2255
Guy Andersen 934-2098
Troy Cox 934-2155
Josh Hamilton 934-2133
Mike Osborne 934-2067
Joe Ringerling 805-9098
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11

Priorities for the Farm Bill

Every five years, Congress considers the Farm Bill, which has huge implications for America's electric cooperatives, including Columbia Power Cooperative. The bill sets food and agriculture policy for the nation, affecting everything from what crops are grown to funding for food nutrition programs. It is due to be reauthorized by the federal government this year.

The Farm Bill is about more than agriculture policy. It promotes rural economic development and allows co-ops to finance basic electrification activities, deploy high-speed communications and enhance smart grid technologies.

Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, America's electric cooperatives are working to ensure lawmakers in Washington know our priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. Here are a few.

Rural broadband. Broadband access isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. But 34 million Americans in mostly rural areas lack access to high-speed internet. Cooperatives have asked Congress to use the Farm Bill to provide funding for broadband loans and grants to all viable Internet providers, including cooperatives.

Economic development. Co-ops aren't just electricity providers. They are engines of economic development, powering and empowering the communities they serve. The Farm Bill's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program is an important source of financing for economic development projects in rural communities. The past two decades, electric cooperatives have partnered with community stakeholders on hundreds of projects to renovate hospitals, build libraries and expand businesses. Co-ops have asked Congress to ensure ample funding for this program.

Innovation. Electric co-ops are natural incubators of innovation because they are driven solely by the needs of members like you. The Department of Agriculture helps fund programs that save members money by financing investments in energy efficiency, building new renewable energy resources and deploying electric grid modernization technologies. For example, the Rural Energy for America Program and Rural Energy Savings Program help ensure co-ops are poised to meet the needs of members.

USDA Rural Development. The health of our nation is dependent on a healthy rural America, which grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods consumed by the nation. Co-ops have asked Congress to maintain strong rural development in the Farm Bill to reaffirm the importance of these programs.

We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders to pass a Farm Bill that promotes economic growth in rural America and allows co-ops to continue meeting the needs of their members.

Best Regards,

Manager Troy Cox

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

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Vice Chairman Dan Steelhammer, Bend
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Beverly Clarno, Redmond
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Boyd Keeton, Tumalo
Shirley McCullough, Prineville
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Attorney Robert E. Maloney Jr.
Lane Powell PC, Portland

STAFF:

President

Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer

Rawleigh White

Operations & Engineering Director

Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer

Lisa Cutter

Member Services Director

Jeff Beaman

Bend District Manager

Karen Lewis

24-HOUR

PHONE NUMBERS:

In Redmond, call (541) 548-2144
or toll free at (800) 924-8736

Mission Statement

The aim of Central Electric Co-op is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

Board meets the third Thursday of each month at the CEC office, 2098 N. Highway 97, Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

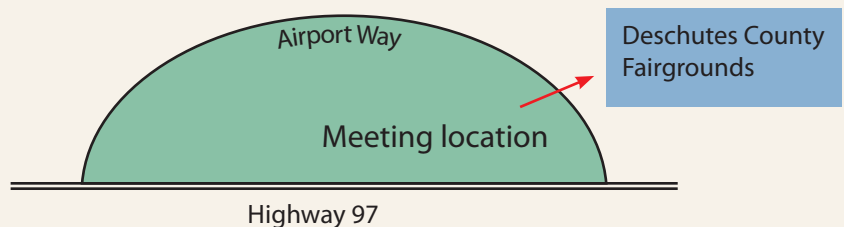
OR-12

77TH ANNUAL MEETING OF Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Friday,
April 13, 2018
Deschutes County Fairgrounds
South Sister Conference Hall
Redmond, Oregon

1 p.m. Registration Begins
1:30 p.m. Meeting Begins

- Business meeting
- Officer reports
- Director elections
- Door prizes
- Grand prize
- Other business





Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

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Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Roger Meader

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille..... (541) 396-3118

Port Orford..... (541) 332-3931

Gold Beach..... (541) 247-6638

Brookings (541) 469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

(866) 352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Special Message

To those we are committed to—and serve electrically—every day.

Last Call for Scholarship Applications

The March 9, 2018, scholarship application deadline is approaching quickly. I invite all high school seniors in our service territory to apply. To qualify, the student's parent/guardian's primary residence must be supplied with electric power from Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative and the student must be graduating high school this year and must be attending a college, university or trade school in the fall. For full details, eligibility criteria and an application, visit www.ccec.coop.

Avoid Phone Scams

Our area has again been the target of phone scams. Scammers call posing as your utility provider. They demand payment immediately over the phone with a credit card or insist you put the money on a prepaid debit card. Don't fall for their threats and urgency to pressure you into giving your bank account number or loading a prepaid credit or debit card. If you receive an alarming call, hang up and call one of our offices directly. Once we verify your identity, we will explain your account status and if there is a balance owed.

Irregular Weather

It seems like this winter has been rather sunny, and yet chilly with a nice warm stretch here and there. However, we all know Mother Nature can be unpredictable and change in a heartbeat. Are you prepared for outages during extreme weather conditions? Have an emergency kit prepared, and always report your outage to us immediately by calling your local CCEC office during the day or the after-hours outage line at (866) 352-9044.

Roger Meader

General Manager/CEO



West Oregon Electric Co-op

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

652 Rose Ave.

P.O. Box 69

Vernonia, OR 97064

(503) 429-3021

Toll free (800) 777-1276

www.westoregon.org

.....
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Larry Heesacker
(Dist. 7 – Manning, Hagg Lake,
Yamhill County)

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Members are welcome.

OR-14

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

It is the middle of February as I write this. On my way to work this morning, it was 20 degrees on the display board next to the credit union. When I got to the office, I received some good news that took off some of the chill of the day: We have seen a large increase in the number of members signed up to participate in the PowerUp program since we began it last year.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar. It provides a wonderful opportunity for you to help your neighbors. During the next few months, we will see a lot of folks come into the office seeking help with their energy bills. It happens every year. It really is a good feeling knowing that for pennies a month, you can make a big difference to a family struggling to make ends meet.

At most it will be 99 cents, and at the least it will be 1 cent, but those pennies collectively add up to real dollars that help real people. The more members who sign up, the more members we can help.

Please call the office and let us know you would like to participate in the PowerUp program. It is just a simple check the box and it is done. What I like about the program is that my electric bill comes through rounded up every month to the nearest dollar, making for a nice, clean entry in my checkbook.

Regards,

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

516 U.S. Hwy. 395 E.
Alturas, CA 96101

Phone (530) 233-3511
Toll-Free: (866) 843-2667

For utility information or to pay
online, go to SVE's website,
www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

*Office open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

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John Minto, Engineer
Dennis Reed, Line Superintendent
Lynn Culp, Member Service Manager

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Likely

*Board meets the fourth Thursday of the
month at the SVE office.*

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

Meter Change-Out

We are nearly finished with our two-year project changing all our meters from being read by people to being read by radio. We began this project in winter 2016 when changing our irrigation meters to radio-read meters. We now have converted residential meters. The last meters will be complete in Surprise Valley and Warner Valley this month. We want to thank you, the members, for your cooperation and patience through this process.

Our goal for this conversion is to help both the member and the cooperative by cleaning up our meter-reading process. All meters are now read from a radio signal sent from the meter to a receiver in a truck as we drive through the service area. All irrigation pump meters are programmed to save the reading from the 20th of the month. This saved reading is what the meter sends and the receiver picks up. Residential meters are not programmed to save a reading. They are read, without reading errors, within one to two days of the 20th of each month. Tightening up the meter reading window allows us to generate bills with nearly the same number of days in the billing cycle each month, providing members with more consistent and accurate bills.

As we have changed out the old meters, we found many had been in place for more than 30 years, and some more than 60 years. The old mechanical meters can slow down over time as dirt gets into the mechanism, disrupting proper measurement. We found a number of meters had stopped completely, and many registered kilowatt-hours at a lower amount than was actually used at the account.

When we began this project, our average system line loss was 12 percent. That means we were buying 12 percent more kWh from the Bonneville Power Administration than what was being metered as used on the system. All electric distribution systems have line loss as energy passes through substation equipment and transformers and across the power line itself, but 12 percent was too high. Some of this loss was for meters that were not properly recording electrical use. The line loss this past month was 9 percent.

We know some members have had slightly higher bills due to the new meters. This is because the new meters are properly measuring all the energy used at the account within 0.05 percent.

This meter change-out program has been a win-win for the member and the cooperative.

Again, we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we complete this process.

Sincerely,

Bradley Kresge

787 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Office Phone: 541-484-1151
Business Hours:
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Website: laneelectric.com

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Matt Michel

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray; Mgr. Engineering & Operations
Debi Wilson; Mgr. Office & Staff Services

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Monday of each month
Lane Electric's Office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR
Meetings begin at 9 a.m.
(Unless otherwise noted on LEC web site)

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OR-16

Down the line



Dear Co-op Community Members:

In the Oregon Legislature's 2018 Short Session, Lane Electric joins Oregon's 17 electric co-ops in advocating for a cap-and-trade bill that addresses both carbon and affordability. The ORECA position statement is reproduced below.

Matt

Matt Michel, General Manager

Statement of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative on Association Cap-and-Trade Legislation: HB 4001 and SB 1507

For the last few months, ORECA has worked collaboratively with the Clean Energy Jobs Utilities and Transportation work group to address our initial concerns with SB 1070, particularly with respect to the ability of electric cooperatives to comply as regulated entities under a state cap-and-trade program. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Helm to work constructively with us to improve the legislation.

However, we cannot support HB 4001 and SB 1507 until the state of Oregon recognizes their current environmental policies are not only inconsistent with the proposed cap-and-trade legislation, they are punitive for rural Oregonians.

ORECA members buy their power from the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power produced at federal dams. The state of Oregon continues to aggressively pursue policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at the federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. Spilling water at these dams has far-reaching ramifications for electric cooperatives and the environment that the state of Oregon refuses to acknowledge. For example, increased spring spill is estimated to cost \$40 million to consumers, will increase carbon emissions by approximately 840,000 metric tons a year and has unintended consequences for migrating juvenile and adult salmon. It is clear the state of Oregon will not be able to meet its carbon goals if federal hydropower continues to be devalued. Unfortunately—despite our best efforts—the state of Oregon has been unwilling to find any common ground with respect to the operation of the federal dams.

While we also appreciate the sponsor's sincere interest in developing a carbon proposal that invests in rural Oregon, we have many unanswered questions about how the cap-and-trade policy will impact electric utility rates, transportation costs and jobs in rural Oregon and "frontier" Oregon areas such as Harney County. These questions require significant examination that the short session cannot provide. Nevertheless, ORECA and Oregon's electric co-ops stand ready to work with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Kate Brown on these issues, including opportunities to reduce carbon through the electrification of the transportation sector using carbon-free hydropower.



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

90680 Highway 99
Eugene, OR 97402
(541)-688-8711
(800)-446-8418
www.blachlylane.coop

Mission Statement: *Blachly-Lane provides safe, reliable electric service consistent with the values of our members.*

Board of Directors:

Ernie Jacksch

(ph: 927-3466) District 1
jacksche@blachlylane.coop
(Low Pass, Blachly, Deadwood and Indian Creek areas)

Curtis Short

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(Hwy 36, Hall Road and North Poodle Creek Road)

Cliff Kelley, Secretary/Treasurer

(ph: 915-6109) District 5
kelleyc@blachlylane.coop
(Warthen, Sheffler and Walton areas)

General Manager

Joe Jarvis
jarvisj@blachlylane.coop

OR-17

New FlexPay Program

Dear Members,

Is our new FlexPay prepaid electricity program a good fit for you? Like adding gasoline to your tank or minutes to a cell-phone plan before you use them, our newest way to pay is simply a pay-as-you-go electric energy service. The system is designed to alert you when you are running low in plenty of time to fill up your account with as much or as little as you want. Instead of getting a bill at the end of the month, members use their computer or cellphone to make payments.

One of the biggest things we think members will like about FlexPay is that if you have a deposit with us, you can convert the deposit into credit on your account. The FlexPay system removes risk to the co-op and, therefore, has only a small upfront cost that new and current members will appreciate.

The caveat to FlexPay is that the equipment requires a strong cellular connection at your service address. If you think FlexPay might meet your needs, we will send a technician out to your residence to take a reading to make sure the equipment will work for you. As cell service improves over time in our area, more members will be able to take advantage of this program.

Pay-as-you-go programs were once thought of as only for lower-income customers who couldn't afford regular service, but this is no longer the case. The benefits of prepaid service—namely lack of upfront costs and increased control over energy use—appeal to a wide range of energy customers. Members who frequently travel, or members with paydays that don't sync with our billing cycle, are good examples. Other members like FlexPay because it gives them daily control over how much energy they use. Look for more information about our FlexPay program on page 25 of this magazine.

Member-Only Surplus Auction

We have several vehicles and pieces of large equipment that are going to be auctioned March 16. Closed bids will be accepted between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on that date. Please see your March bill insert and our website for a list of the auction items and further details.

As always, we appreciate the investment members make in being a part of this co-op. We are here to serve you.

Joe Jarvis

General Manager





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.....
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Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-5891
(800) 548-8357

White Salmon Office
110 NE Estes Ave.
P.O. Box 187
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-2255
(800) 548-8358

WA-18

A Look Ahead at Your PUD

The past year has been an interesting one for all of us at Klickitat PUD.

We have seen an increase in requests for new electrical service, which usually means the economy is rebounding. Requests range from what I would call normal load growth to new large irrigation loads and, more recently, bitcoin mining operations and small data centers. The requests mean our electric loads are increasing, which is usually good for your PUD in the long term, as there are more customers to share the administrative costs we incur. These increases can, however, burden specific areas of our existing infrastructure.

Klickitat PUD regularly completes long-range electric system planning. The most recent plan is almost complete. The plan helps us determine the lowest-cost method to serve our increasing customer base and dictates the system improvements necessary to support load growth in our county. We complete a similar process for our water and wastewater systems.

In 2018, we will complete major upgrades to the substation that provides power for the Bingen, White Salmon and Snowden areas. This expansion increases the capacity of the substation to ensure we can supply continued load growth in these areas.

We also will be completing projects that increase electric system reliability in these areas. These improvements are meant to localize most outages to smaller areas so fewer customers are impacted by each outage.

We also are seeing continued load growth on the east end of our county. As a result, we are completing a large system upgrade determined by the long-range plan. These improvements include a new substation near Sixprong Road—about halfway between Roosevelt and Alderdale—along with the required transmission line to feed it. This project allows us to move some existing load from a substation on Alderdale Road to this new substation. In turn, this will allow us to serve more loads in the future throughout the entire east end of the county. The transmission line that will be built is also the first half of a future plan to bring another source of power into the area that will provide a greater level of reliability to our customers.

We are also completing smaller system improvements in many areas of the county. These consist of systematic aging infrastructure replacements, increased line capacities in localized areas and other upgrades to improve our service and reliability levels on the electrical system.

The largest improvement planned for 2018 with our water and wastewater systems is a new well for the Lyle water system. Other projects include the installation of radio-read water meters in the Glenwood, Ponderosa Park, Rimrock and Roosevelt water systems; the start of a two-year project of videoing and cleaning the sewer lines in Glenwood; and completing the 1-inch jumper on the end of the water line on Columbia Drive in Lyle.

As always, Klickitat PUD staff will continue to ensure you receive safe and reliable electric, water and wastewater services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Ron Schultz
Chief Engineer



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The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.nli.coop
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Sagle, ID 83860

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(866) 665-4837

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Outside Sandpoint:
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(208) 610-2999

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(208) 661-5911

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(208) 267-7064

Dist. No. 6—Dave Anderson, Bonners Ferry, ID
(208) 610-8021

Dist. No. 7—Jim Woodward, Sagle, ID
(208) 946-7963

ID-19

The Power of Hydro

For decades, the Pacific Northwest has relied on clean, renewable hydropower for the vast majority of its energy needs. It is a carbon-free, low-cost resource that works to power our homes and businesses. Because hydro-power is clean and renewable, the Pacific Northwest has a carbon footprint that is half that of other regions in the county. It also works to keep our electric rates as some of the lowest in the country, as dams produce energy cheaper than nuclear, coal and natural gas-fired plants.

A majority of Northern Lights' power comes from hydropower, which includes 10 percent from our own Lake Creek Dam in Montana. The Bonneville Power Administration supplies the other 90 percent. Each year, BPA spends millions of dollars to help improve access for salmon, with great success. Every mainstem federal dam in our region now has fish slides or other technologies to help young salmon migrate downstream. Unfortunately, even with these notable improvements, the courts are forcing these dams to spill water in the spring in an unproven effort to help salmon at a cost of \$40 million to consumers.

Northern Lights relies on BPA, which markets the power produced at the federal dams. Along with other local utilities relying on BPA, NLI, strives to work together to have the lowest possible rates while being good stewards of our environment. While we support funding set aside to aid salmon, spilling water at these dams has costly ramifications for electric cooperatives and the environment, and may not be effective.

We hope to continue to rely on renewable clean hydropower for many years to come. Now that spring is almost here, it is a perfect time to get outside to view nature's beautiful rivers and be glad our region gets its power from such a great renewable source.

Cheers to spring!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

P.O. Box 300
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: (208) 983-1610
Toll free: (877) 212-0424
Fax: (208) 983-1432
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Website: www.iclp.coop

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Grangeville

John Solberg
Kamiah

Ernie Robinson
Whitebird

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

Youth Rally Scholarships

Dear Members,

It is time again to talk about the Youth Tour and scholarships. For the 27th year, this opportunity is available to sophomores or juniors in high school—or the equivalent—of Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative members who are looking to pursue college or technical school following graduation.

I have heard many great stories through the years about the impacts this experience has afforded several young individuals in our community. We know our youth is our future, and this is such a great opportunity.

I hope all eligible students take advantage of the opportunity to apply for the cooperative's Youth Rally scholarships advertised in this issue. After reading the feature story about our delegates from last year's competition, I believe you will see it is well worth the effort. Three lucky winners not only take home \$750 scholarships good for the college or technical school of their choice, they get to attend the youth leadership conference sponsored by our statewide association of cooperative and municipal electric utilities, Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association.

Those who attend will compete for additional scholarships. Approximately one-third of all delegates attending the ICUA Youth Rally come home with scholarships ranging from \$300 to \$600.

While attending the conference, delegates learn how their utilities operate and are governed. They participate in cooperative problem-solving and leadership exercises. They meet and learn from leaders in industry and government. Participants also visit the state Capitol and, if that all sounds a little too intense, get to relax with a day at Roaring Springs Water Park and more fun activities in the evenings when classes are done.

I think the most rewarding thing they find are the relationships they make with other delegates. Many of them keep in touch and continue to cross paths for years to come as they move into positions of leadership in business or government.

The deadline for applications is March 30. The Youth Rally runs from July 9 to 14, so pencil it in on your calendar.

Don't forget, one of the delegates will be selected to represent Idaho at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June 2019, after which they will attend the NRECA Youth Leadership Conference that fall—also in D.C.—and then wrap up working as a page at NRECA's annual meeting in New Orleans in February 2020.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions. Thank you to our members, who make this all possible.

Max Beach, General Manager



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Fax: (509) 382-2736

2929 Melrose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: (509) 526-4041
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Board meetings are normally the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. and is usually held in the Dayton office.

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Jim Cooper
Manager of Communications & IT,
Bob Greene
Manager of Safety & Regulatory
Affairs, KC Dors

WA-22

Letter from Les...

How many of us remember dropping into a Columbia REA office with our parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? Whether you do that in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Columbia REA.

You use electricity to run all these devices, and we still keep the lights on, use the stove, heating and air conditioning, and get hot water from tap. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have also been up by more than one to 2 percent annually.

Electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt hour use per household dropped by 8 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the 9 percent decline reported by all electric utilities, nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why Columbia REA urges energy efficiency, encourages you to look for ENERGY STAR® appliances, and promotes technology, designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable, keep it affordable, and make it even more valuable to our member— you, your family and your neighbors.

Until next time,





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

16755 Finley Butte Road
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**After-Hours Outage and
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or (800) 752-5935**

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7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

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Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

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CFO/Accounting Manager

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Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The FY 2019 federal budget was recently released. Within the budget is a proposal that could have a significant impact on your electric rates. The proposal is to sell the power marketing administrations to the private sector and change the cost-based rates charged to market-based rates—a move opposed by the Northwest utility industry organizations and the region's congressional delegates.

The United States has four PMAs, including the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA was created to sell and deliver electricity from the federal Columbia River power system at cost to Northwest citizens. It operates 15,000 miles of transmission lines, and collects the costs of the transmission and power it provides via customer rates.

The PMAs annually review rates to ensure full cost recovery. The proposal contends it will level the playing field by requiring the PMAs to raise rates, but Northwest officials disagree. It is the Northwest's ratepayers who have paid to keep BPA's system going since the 1930s, and that's why BPA can offer power at cost. The misconception that the federal government gives us a special deal needs to be put to rest.

The Portland-based Public Power Council estimates the proposal could raise an extra \$5 billion to \$7 billion on the backs of Northwest electricity customers during the next 10 years without any added benefit. PPC says the proposals raise several concerns, including significant increased costs to Northwest residents and businesses; loss of regional control and value; potential for remote areas of the system to be

neglected, harming rural communities; and impacts on reliability of what is currently a complex and integrated system.

This proposal is just one part of a White House recommendation for a massive, complicated federal budget. The idea is not new. It first surfaced during the Ronald Reagan administration. It has resurfaced at different times since then under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

I am concerned it really might happen, and the Northwest will lose a reliable, low-cost power resource. These proposals need to be fought at every turn.

I applaud the Northwest congressional delegation in its bipartisan opposition to the proposal as a misguided approach that wrongly states the nature of the Northwest hydropower system and the BPA rates that pay for all of the cost of that system. I ask you to do the same.

Go to www.ORECA-Action.org, click the Join Us link and let the delegates know you appreciate their opposition and you, too, oppose the sale of the PMAs and market-based rates.

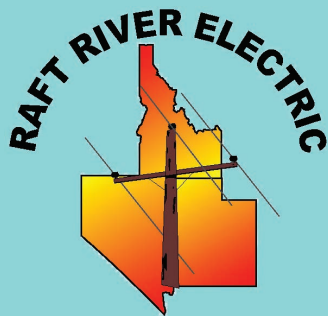
MEC's Annual Meeting

MEC's annual meeting is Saturday, May 12, at La Pine Middle School. Registration, health fair, displays and barbecue begin at 10 a.m., with the business meeting starting at noon.

Scholarship Applications Due May 7

MEC is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for persons attending accredited colleges/technical schools. The application is on our website, www.mse.coop.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

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Kurt Anderson

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Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday
of each month

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

To Call Raft River

- Office hours (208) 645-2211
- Toll free (800) 342-7732
(After hours and outages)
- Pay-by-phone (844) 244-1497

Western Division

(All calls for Jackpot, Jarbidge,
Mountain City and Owyhee)

- Office hours (208) 645-2211
- Toll free (800) 342-7732
(After hours and outages)



ID-24

You Are Invited Raft River Electric's 79th Annual Meeting

Take part in your cooperative's democratic process. You will be served a delicious dinner with dessert. Everyone who attends will receive a gift bag, plus there will be lots of prize drawings, including a grand prize \$1,200 power bill credit! Take this opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors and be a part of your co-op community.



Raft River High School
Malta, Idaho

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Registration and meal begin at 6 p.m.
Business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

**P.O. Box 348
Ritzville, WA 99169**

Ritzville office 659-1700

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Secretary John Harder
Treasurer Lyle Holt
Robert Clinesmith
Curtis Dahl
Stacy Kniveton
Lanny Hayes
Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

Spring Chore Tips

After spending long winter days indoors, most folks love to get outside in spring, even if just to do chores. But outdoor chores can bring electrical hazards.

For example, ladders contacting power lines cause 9 percent of electrocution-related deaths each year, according to recent data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Landscaping, gardening and farming equipment cause another 7 percent.

To avoid electrical hazards, the CPSC and Electrical Safety Foundation International suggest you and your family follow these simple tips:

- Use only a fiberglass or wooden ladder if you must work near overhead wires.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Store power tools indoors.
- Unplug outdoor tools when not in use.
- Do not carry power tools by the cord.
- Avoid damp conditions when using electricity. Keep all electrical devices and cords away from water. Place waterproof covers on all outdoor outlets.
- Install ground-fault circuit interrupters in outlets where water may be nearby.
- Only use extension cords marked for outdoor use. Match power needs of an electric tool or appliance to the cord's label information.
- Never touch a person or an object that has made contact with a power line.
- Dial 811, the national Call Before You Dig phone number, at least 72 hours before engaging in any type of excavation or digging work. Local utilities will be notified to mark the approximate location of any underground lines on your property.
- Teach children to stay away from electric transformers and substations, and explain what posted warning signs mean. ■



Hood River Electric Cooperative



P.O. Box 125
3521 Davis Drive
Odell, OR 97044

(541) 354-1233
www.hrec.coop

DIRECTORS

President Butch Gehrig
Vice President Gary Bloom
Secretary Bernie Wells
Treasurer Roger Nelson
Patrick Moore
Opal DeBoard
Doug Mahurin
John McGhee
Dick Sohler

MANAGER

John Gerstenberger

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Please Attend!

Hood River Electric Cooperative 72nd Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.

Community Building, Hood River County Fairgrounds

The agenda includes:

- Election of three directors
 - Operating reports
 - Door prizes
- Dessert and coffee

Hope to see you there!

Report of the Nominating Committee

We, the Nominating Committee, appointed by the board of directors of Hood River Electric Cooperative, met February 6, 2018, at the office of the cooperative.

We nominated the following members for the board of directors to be voted upon at the March 15, 2018, annual meeting:

- Roger Nelson (incumbent)
- Gary Bloom (incumbent)
- Dick Sohler (incumbent)

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Sheppard
Brian Nakamura
Brian Conners
Steve Bickford
Mike Ellis
Paul Lavoie
Ken Morikado

Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
(541) 573-2061

hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovida, Nevada
(775) 272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org



Board of Directors

President John Ugalde
Vice President Joe Cronin
Sec./Treasurer Gary Miller
Frank Albisu
Rod Hoagland
Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Brent Beverly

Line Superintendent

Jason Hill

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

It's Annual Meeting Time

Dear Members,

The annual meeting of Harney Electric Cooperative is Saturday, May 5, at Crane High School in Crane, Oregon.

Two directors will be elected. Members have an opportunity to review reports on the progress of the cooperative and to conduct necessary business.

Dinner is served at noon. There is no cost. We hope you will attend this important function.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller, Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Members,

As can be seen from the secretary's announcement above, it is annual meeting time again. It is a good opportunity to hear firsthand how things are going and what we expect in the future. Probably the most important aspect of the meeting is the election of the directors.

Nominees must reside in the district they would represent. Nominees are selected by the nominating committee or by petition signed by any 15 bona fide members. Any such nominations by petition must be received in the Hines office not fewer than 34 days before the meeting date. The petition deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, March 20.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven geographical districts. Each is represented by a board member serving a three-year term.

The districts open for board member election this year are:

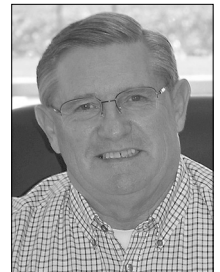
- No. 2: Crane, Princeton to Riverside; incumbent Zach Sword.
- No. 7: Denio South; incumbent Hank Dufurrena.

Serving on the board of directors is not something one should take lightly. Neither is your decision as to who you feel would do the best job of guiding the policy decisions of your co-op. Your vote is important. Cast it carefully.

For those of you who will be able to attend the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there.

With personal regards,

Fred Flippence, Manager





P.O. Box 384
Challis, ID 83226
Phone: (208) 879-2283
Fax: (208) 879-2596
After-hours emergency numbers:
Propane: (208) 879-2201
Electric: (208) 879-4900

Board of Directors

President Bob Boren
Vice President Jeff Bitton
Sec./Treasurer Norman Wallis
Michael Miller
Doug Parkinson
Steve Rembelski
Earl Skeen
Manager Ken Dizes
Attorney Dale Storer

Board meets the third Wednesday of each month

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative



ID-28

Concern for Community

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles your electric cooperative ascribes to is Concern for Community. As SREC focuses on member needs, we also work for the sustainable development of the communities we serve by implementing policies and practices accepted by our member-owners.

Support of our youth and young adults is one of the practices supported by our member-owners, and provides a way to develop the communities we serve. We are proud to sponsor our youth in various ways, including supporting their academic, sports and other extracurricular activities.



Ken Dizes

One example of how we support our youth is by inviting sophomore and junior students at Challis High School to apply to attend the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association Youth Rally. The youth rally is a weeklong, fun-filled experience where students have the opportunity to gain leadership and team-building skills, and learn about electric cooperatives. This experience is paid for by the cooperative. Students at the rally have a chance to compete for scholarships.

Details for this year's rally will be available shortly. Please check with your high school counselor, Tyler Thayn at SREC or SREC's website at www.srec.org under "Upcoming Events" to get information on the youth rally. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 6.

We also support our youth and young adults by providing scholarships. SREC has provided scholarships for 18 youth and young adults since 2006. Below are details of the scholarships your electric cooperative offers. Please note the deadline to apply for this year's scholarships is Friday, March 16.

SREC offers two scholarships for 2018:

1. A \$4,000 scholarship to graduating seniors of Challis High School, former graduates of Challis High School and/or community home-schooled students pursuing academic work.
2. A \$5,000 scholarship to any person, including graduating seniors, interested in pursuing a career as a lineman.

Please contact Tyler at the SREC office for additional details and requirements at tyler@srec.org or 879-2283 ext. 3020. The application also is posted at www.srec.org under "Upcoming Events."

Ken Dizes
General Manager

United Electric Co-op Inc.

Directors

President Bruce Beck
Vice President David Phillips
Sec./Treas. Cordell Searle
Brent Bowen
Dean Nielsen
Ronald Osterhout
George Toner
John R. West

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant

Penny West

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336
Phone: (208) 679-2222
Fax: (208) 679-3333

Email: uec@unitedelectric.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: (208) 679-4444



UNITED ELECTRIC
CO-OP INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

Every five years, the U.S. Congress considers the Farm Bill, which has huge implications for America's electric cooperatives, including United Electric Co-op Inc. This comprehensive food and agriculture legislation covers much more than farms and farmers. It affects conservation, trade, nutrition, jobs and infrastructure, agricultural research, forestry and energy. Although there has been little mention of it, the Farm Bill is due to be reauthorized by the federal government this year.

Through our national service organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, America's electric cooperatives are working to ensure lawmakers understand our priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill.

Of course, the farm bill helps farmers and ranchers through a variety of programs, which provides a stable and secure supply of food for the nation and abroad. Agricultural trade is critically important to the bottom line for U.S. farmers and ranchers. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 20 percent of all U.S. agricultural production is exported. Exports are projected to account for one-third of farm income in 2017. These programs also allow Americans to enjoy relatively inexpensive food. The USDA reports that, on average, Americans spend less than 10 percent of their income on food.

Cooperatives aren't just electricity providers. We are engines of economic development, powering and empowering the communities we serve. The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program is an important source of financing for economic development projects in rural communities such as ours. Cooperatives have asked Congress to ensure ample funding for this program in the Farm Bill.

Not-for-profit electric cooperatives are driven solely by the needs of its members. The health of our nation is dependent on a healthy rural America, which grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods consumed by the nation.

USDA's Office of Rural Development operates many different programs that provide fundamental assistance to rural communities. The programs help fund rural energy-efficiency projects that help conserve energy, save money on energy bills and boost local economies. The programs make energy-saving improvements for business and residential utility members more affordable. Cooperatives have asked Congress to maintain strong rural development in the Farm Bill to reaffirm the importance of these programs.

Unfortunately, most people are unaware of the Farm Bill's importance because they think it impacts only farmers. Electric cooperatives are working with Congress and other stakeholders to pass a Farm Bill that promotes economic growth in rural America, and maximizes the positive impacts the Farm Bill can have for all Americans.



Jo Elg
General Manager



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

305 Pine Street
P.O. Box 420
Mackay, ID 83251-0420

Phone: (208) 588-3311
Fax: (208) 588-3038
Email: office@lrecoop.com
www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com

Directors

Brad J. Gamett
President

Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
Dean L. Myler
Randy R. Purser
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

Manager/CEO

F. Richard Reynolds

The Board of Directors
meets the fourth Friday
of each month at 10 a.m.

ID-30

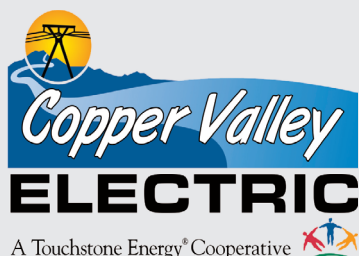


Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Avoid this potentially deadly combination.

Water and electricity don't go together. To avoid becoming a victim of electrocution, follow these safety tips:

- When your hands are wet or you are standing near water or wet areas, do not touch a light switch or use electrical equipment.
- Water conducts electricity, so if you hear a storm warning and are swimming outdoors, get out of the water as quickly as possible.
- Never set a radio, telephone or any other electrical appliance on the edge of a tub or sink. If you want music in the bathroom, get a battery-operated radio meant for use near water.
- Appliances used near water—such as a hair dryer—should be unplugged when not in use. If a plugged-in appliance falls into the water, don't reach in to pull it out, even if it is turned off. Unplug it first. After retrieving it, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repairman.



Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
Mary Odden, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Brad Honerlaw, Treasurer
Paul Kildal, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Will Stark, Director
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211
(907) 822-5586 (fax)
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

(907) 835-4301
(907) 835-4328 (fax)
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

March

CVEA Board Meeting: The March meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, March 15, 2018, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, March 26, 2018, for Seward's Day

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2018, in Glennallen

Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2018

AK-34

2018 Annual Meeting of Members Valdez - Tuesday, May 1, 2018 Copper Basin - Thursday, May 3, 2018

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members. The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative.

This year's meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center, and Thursday, May 3, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center. Registration and food service begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, ask questions about your cooperative, accept director election results, and to transact any other business that may come before the Membership.

In addition to learning valuable information, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill! Don't be late!

In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2017 Annual Report, and the 2018 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included.

Co-op members in the Copper Basin District will select one candidate, and members in Valdez will select two candidates.

As a member of your cooperative, the single-most important action you can take is to vote for your Board representatives.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even if there is only one candidate, we still need you to VOTE!

Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018. When voting, please remember the back of the ballot envelope must be signed by the member whose signature is on file. If you are unsure what is on your signature card, or need an update, please stop by either office or give us a call at 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 27, 2018.

This year, all valid ballots received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

So, please, when you receive your ballot, make your voice heard and exercise your right to vote!





1115 Pacific Ave. • P.O. Box 433
Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: (503) 842-2535
Toll free: (800) 422-2535
www.tpud.org

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

For EMERGENCY service after
business hours, call (800) 842-2122.

Board of Directors

Doug Olson, President
Ed Jenkins, Vice President
Ken Phillips, Treasurer
Harry Hewitt, Secretary
Barbara Trout, Director

General Manager

Todd Simmons

Board meetings are in the PUD office
at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday after the
11th of the month.

Our Mission

Tillamook PUD provides safe, reliable and
competitively priced power to our
customers.

Our Vision

Tillamook PUD provides high value to
our customers, staff and community,
performing now and preparing for the
future.



OR-35

Communication is Key

Dear Customers:

Communication is necessary for many of us. At Tillamook PUD, communication is second nature. It is essential for our everyday operations, and something we make a priority.

As we restore electrical service, we follow the rule: “make safe, communicate, restore,” always remembering that proper communication keeps us safe and allows us to get things done properly.

As an organization, we strive to constantly communicate with our customers, community members and staff to maintain open lines of communication and build trusting relationships. To do this, we use a variety of communication channels including social media, audio, printed publications, our website and face-to-face interactions. These methods broaden our reach, helping us achieve our communication goal to connect with others and relay important messages.

Our website, SmartHub, Facebook, Twitter and Nixle are all channels we frequently use, often for time-sensitive information. With Nixle, we can quickly notify our subscribers of emergency outages, and continue to keep them updated. Outage information is also posted on our Facebook page, Twitter feed and website. Our website is full of useful information about our projects, programs, energy-efficiency tips and community events. Our Facebook and Twitter contains convenient tips as well, and provides a fun and interesting look at Tillamook PUD. With SmartHub through Tillamook PUD, customers can select notification options and view their important account information.

Printed publications such as our local newspapers and Ruralite allow us to get information out about our utility not only to our customers and community members, but to those outside of our service territory. Radio advertisements and interviews on local broadcasts are also helpful in extending our communication reach.

One of our favorite communication techniques, and one we never want to lose, is our ability to communicate face-to-face with you, our customers, community members, entities and friends. We enjoy having folks stop by our office for assistance and inquiries, or visiting with us at a community event. We appreciate groups and organizations welcoming us at their meetings and reaching out to us with their concerns or questions. The personal connection with a face-to-face encounter is something you cannot always attain through another form of communication.

At Tillamook PUD, frequent, clear, open, two-way communication is a necessity. It is a cornerstone for our utility and something we believe is the key to growing a successful relationship with you.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager





P. O. Box 449
Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-6166
Fax: 852-6372
www.bueci.org

Board of Directors

President

Price E. Brower

Vice President

Roy Nageak Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer

Josiah Patkotak

Frederick F. Brower
Lewis F. Brower
Avaiyak Burnell
Michael D. Stotts
Richard Ungarook Sr.
Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

BUECI Annual Meeting

Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. is having its annual meeting in the Barrow High School Auditorium Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 7 p.m.

Registration opens at 6 p.m.

Registration closes at 7:15 p.m.



Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Schikora, Chairman (District 3)
Tom DeLong, Vice-Chairman (District 2)
John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
Bill Nordmark, Treasurer (District 7)
Chris Bunch (District 5)
David Messier (District 1)
Gary Newman (District 4)

Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street
PO Box 71249
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
(907) 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax (907) 458-6365

Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
(907) 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax (907) 895-5472

Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
(907) 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax (907) 832-5438

Report Outages:

(907) 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Select: Option 1, Option 1

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Help Those That Help You

When it comes to keeping your lights on, the good guys wear hard hats.

Our “good guys” need clear access to power lines – especially during outages. If they’re delayed by objects in the right of way or an unwilling or angry property owner, it takes that much longer to restore power.

Help those who help you. If you see a crew in hard hats working near power lines on your property, it’s probably some of our good guys, so let them do their work.



GVEA linemen Ian Wiedmaier, on the pole, and Joe Waggoner repair a damaged pole and broken wire after a wind storm.



Keep your right-of-way clear

During power outages, we may have to access the right of way (ROW) on your property in order to make repairs.

ROWs blocked by fences, abandoned cars, equipment or debris slow down restoration efforts and can create unsafe conditions for GVEA linemen – especially in the dark and during bad weather.

Help those who help you. Make sure your ROW is kept clear of obstacles at all times.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2

Artists' Opening Reception.

Plumas Arts Gallery, 525 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments.

For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

Artists' Opening Reception. Main Street Artists Gallery, 436 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Reception for featured artist. Enjoy drinks and nibbles.

For more information, call (530) 283-1909 or visit www.mainstreetartists.net/home.htm.

Susanville's Best of Broadway.

Performances at 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall. 1295 Main St.

For more information, please call (530) 260-3191 or go to www.susanvillebestofbroadway.org.

March 3 & 4

Susanville Symphony Society.

Susanville Assembly of God. 473-

465 Richmond Road, Susanville. Friday 7 p.m. Saturday 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please call (530) 310-8111 or go to www.susanvillesymphony.com/pages/concerts.

March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, & 31

Ranger-led Snow Walks. Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks.

Lassen Volcanic National Park Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, 21820 Lassen Peak Highway, Mineral. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A \$1 donation to cover snowshoe maintenance is appreciated.

For more information, call (530) 595-4480.

March 5

Poetry Out Loud County Finals.

Plumas Arts Gallery, 525 Main St., Quincy. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, please call (530) 283-3402.

March 10

A Taste of Beef, Sip of Wine.

Susanville Elks Lodge, 400 Main St. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by Lassen County Cattlewomen and Cattlemen.

For more information, please call (530) 570-3402.

March 16 & 17

Cowboy Poetry and Music Show/

Dinner. Sierra Valley Grange Hall, Vinton. Friday dinner 5 to 7; show 7:30 p.m.; Saturday dinner 4:30 to 7 p.m., 2 p.m. matinee, and 7:30 p.m. evening show.

For more information, call (831) 345-9840.

March 18

World Championship Longboard

Race. Plumas-Eureka State Park, Johnsville Ski Bowl. 10:30 a.m. Period costumes, music, food and fun. Groomed slopes, Indorf Lodge and Lost Sierra Cafe open. Dogs on leashes only.

For more information, call (530) 832-4309.

March 29

Rotary District 5190 Youth Music

Contest. Rotary District 5190 invites youth ages 14 to 18 years of age to demonstrate their musical talent. Prize money awarded for first, second and third places. Submit your entry no later than March 23.

For more information, email feltgar@aol.com.

March 31

Third Annual Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2381 hosts the third annual Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall in Susanville.

For more information, call (530) 310-0428.

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

crew. The crew recently hung fiber optic cable to connect switches on Chandler Road and Quincy Junction Road to allow automated control of key electric switches that will allow for faster restoration of power outages. PST is working on additions to this system to allow broadband service to the home.

For more information, or to sign up for service, please call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

Get Ready For Spring Safely

Spring is just around the corner and the weather is warming up. Trees, shrubs and flowers are beginning to bloom, and we are starting to make plans for the outdoor projects we put on our to-do list over the winter—those in the garage, around the house and in the yard.

While you are eager to get an early start, please don't ignore safety. Check your surroundings both high and low. Be aware of overhead power lines when trimming trees or shrubs. If you are dig-

ging holes for new fence posts or planting trees or shrubs please call 811.

It is important you do not nick or cut underground power lines with a shovel or pick. Again, please take a minute to call 811, the underground notification center.

The process is quick and easy. When you call 811, you are connected to the one-call center closest to your area. The call center takes your information and notifies PSREC and other utilities in the area of your request. A professional is dispatched from the co-op to locate and mark the location of underground power lines where you plan to dig.

To ensure your job stays on schedule, please call a few days before you are ready to work to allow for processing. Remember, knowing what is below ground will protect you, your family and your neighbors.

Be aware of any overhead power lines in your area as well. Look up before moving irrigation pipes, using a ladder,

installing a new antenna or flag pole, or moving large trucks, trailers or heavy equipment.

For indoor projects that involve wiring and electrical fixtures, make sure you turn the power off at the breaker panel to avoid being shocked.

As you make your plan, remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It just might save your life. Please take the proper precautions as you begin your springtime chores. You will be glad you did.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call me at (800) 555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager



MT. WHEELER POWER

P.O. Box 151000
1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89315

(775) 289.8981
(800) 97-POWER
info@mwpower.net

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
(775) 289-8981

Eureka Office
(775) 237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
(800) 97-POWER

Board of Directors

District 1 – Ron Miller
District 2 – Mary Kerner
District 3 – Robert Pratt
District 4 – Don Phillips
District 5 – Rick Hendrix
District 6 – Jerald Anderson
District 7 – Sandra Green
District 8 – Wilma Sanford
District 9 – Ron Niman

Proudly serving more than 10,000
residents and businesses throughout
Nevada and Utah.

*Winter hours: The Ely office is open Monday
through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka
office is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m.*

“Powering Your Future”

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40



Mt. Wheeler Power General Manager Randy Ewell, above, presided over last year's annual meeting. Meet Kevin Robison at this year's meeting as he takes on the general manager duties.

You Are Invited

It's time for your annual meeting. This year's meeting will be a bit different than you have come to expect we are hosting it on Thursday, April 26, at the Bristlecone. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., dinner is at 5 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Door prizes, dinner and a grand prize are all on the agenda, along with an updated conversation regarding Question 3 and the rate increase. We hope you will join us as we take a look at what the future holds for Mt. Wheeler Power.

Wells Rural Electric Company

Board of Directors

F. Scott Egbert
President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

Kirk Dahl
Orlin Kidner
Fred Montes de Oca
Lois Nannini
Jim Whited
Bruce Widmer
Bob Wilcox
Howard Wright

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

(800) 566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

1322 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 727
Carlin, Nevada 89822
(775) 754-6362

Wendover office:

1706 West Butte Street
P.O. Box 3699
West Wendover,
Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

1451 Humboldt Avenue
P.O. Box 365
Wells, Nevada 89835
(775) 752-3328

NV-41

CEO Message

Estimates vary, but there are approximately 175,000 words currently in use in the English language. That number all but guarantees that some words will have very similar meanings. Yet the existence of two words, regardless of similarities, suggests that there is a difference.



Consider two very common words: “simple” and “easy.” These words are often used interchangeably, but I’m going to suggest that “simple” means that the steps to complete a task can be clearly defined. In contrast, “easy” describes the amount of effort required to complete those simple steps.

For example, it is simple to lose weight. In fact, there are only two options. In the words of a former Board member, the late Dr. S. J. Smith, “You can starve it off or burn it off.” Every weight loss plan on the market is only a variation of eating less or exercising more, or some combination of the two.

Even though losing weight is simple, it’s anything but easy. The National Institutes of Health estimate that more than one in three Americans are overweight. An article in U. S. News reported that Americans spend more than \$60 billion annually on everything from gym memberships to weight-loss programs to shed pounds.

What your electric cooperative does for you every day is also simple. Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) delivers safe, reliable, affordable and abundant electricity. While your cooperative and its employees do a great many other things for the communities WREC serves, the only reason WREC exists, indeed

the reason it was created, was to do that one simple thing: deliver electricity.

While delivering electricity is simple, it has never been easy. It took a grassroots movement of neighbors working together to create a new company focused on connecting its members to the grid. That movement also needed a federal loan program, the Rural Electrification Administration, because neither investors or commercial banks would lend money to a start-up, not-for-profit cooperative, run by amateurs in a small, isolated market.

Over the last sixty years, your electric cooperative has changed in many ways to meet your growing demand for electricity. It has maximized technology, controlled costs and increased convenience, but some things haven’t changed. Even though WREC has grown from 296 members in 1960 to 4,055 members today, we are a very small niche compared to other markets. The transmission power lines early members paid to build are the same ones connecting Carlin, Wendover, West Wendover, Wells and rural areas to the grid today. Most importantly, the rural electric cooperative you use every day is still the most effective, efficient and affordable way for you to purchase electricity and have it delivered because its run by a group of your friends and neighbors you elect to make choices for your cooperative.

During the next several months, there will be a growing debate about the Energy Choice Initiative (ECI). Through this magazine and other media channels, we will providing more information not only about what ECI is, but also what it isn’t. Please ask questions and engage in the discussion.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer

LETTER FROM THE CEO

At VCA, You Remain in Charge



Right before Christmas, Congress overturned the Net Neutrality law, which governed how Internet providers conducted themselves. Originally passed in 2015, Net Neutrality favored the consumer by restricting providers' influence on your decisions regarding the websites, applications and content you engaged with. It also put limits on how providers used your data.

In short, it assumed that consumers were in control of their Internet experience, and it preserved their right to communicate freely Online.

On Dec. 14, 2017, that changed when Congress overturned the law. The new law now favors the service providers over the consumers. Since Net Neutrality no longer exists, consumers might not be aware that their providers are speeding up, slowing down or blocking content, applications or websites they visit.

There is a move afoot in Congress to restore the Net Neutrality law.

If you are a subscriber to Valley Communications Association broadband services, however, you will always know that your service provider continues to operate within the spirit of Net Neutrality.

VCA, supports the principle of Net Neutrality. While the new law might allow us to speed up the service for some consumers while slowing down for others, we will not do that. Net Neutrality is a principle that is easy for a Cooperative to identify with. It reminds us of several of the Seven Cooperative Principles – the ones

that emphasize autonomy, independence, information, and concern for community.

Net Neutrality goes hand in glove with consumer choice. Technology has put consumers in the position of choosing how much control they exercise over their busy lives. Uber, smart thermostats, satellite radio, streaming video, driverless vehicles. All those services and many more put the consumer in charge. High-speed broadband is the technology that connects them all.

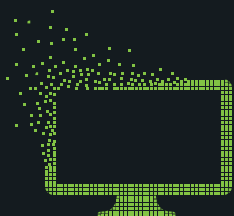
Member-owners who wish to take active roles in governing their communities and their Co-op, should expect that their Internet provider is not standing in the way. Small business owners in our communities rely on an open Internet to help them advertise their products and services, communicate with consumers and help them thrive.

You should not have to wonder whether your Internet provider is overriding your choices or dictating what your experience will be or monitoring it. As long as you subscribe to VCA high-speed communications, you will never have to.

Until next month,

Thomas H. Husted,
Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Husted has served as the CEO of VEA since 2005. He has more than 30 years of experience in the utility industry across the Western United States, including more than 20 years as a CEO.



TUNE IN

VCA Digital TV



valleycom.com

800 E. Highway 372
P.O. Box 237
Pahrump, NV 89041

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OFFICE PHONE

800-742-3330 (within Nevada)
or 775-727-5312, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday, except holidays

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,
seven days a week for your
emergency needs.

(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

Commissioners

Joe O'Leary
Paul Rogers
Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

The Kittitas PUD Board of Commissioners meets the last Tuesday of each month in Building B. Please visit the PUD website to view all approved board minutes.

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

- ▶ Fish, (509) 925-5990
www.kvfish.org
- ▶ HopeSource, (509) 925-1448
www.hopesource.us
- ▶ Kittitas County Veteran's Coalition
Kittitas: (509) 933-2932
Cle Elum: (509) 647-3872
- ▶ St. Andrews Catholic Church, Ellensburg, (509) 962-9819,
www.st-andrewsparish.org
- ▶ Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington,
(800) 567-6690, www.stoww.webs.com

OFFICE HOURS

- ▶ Monday through Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WA-43

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Washington's one-call center, or your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.

**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
Washington's statewide one-call center**





557 Kenny Wren Rd.
P.O. Box 350
Dillingham, AK 99576

(907) 842-5251
Toll Free: (800) 478-5296
After Hours: (907) 842-5555
Fax (907) 842-2799
www.nushtel.com

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Annie Fritze, Secretary
Steve Noonkesser, Treasurer
Bruce Baltar
Susie Jenkins-Brito
Wanda Wahl
Chris Napoli
Todd Radenbaugh

General Manager

Robert Himschoot

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

March 20	August 21
April 17	September 18
May 15	October 16
June 19	November 20
July 17	December 18

Serving the communities of:

Aleknagik	Ekuk
Clarks Point	Manokotak
Dillingham	Portage Creek



Touchstone Energy®

AK-47

17th Annual meeting—2018

A Message from the CEO

Dear Member-Owners:

This year's annual meeting will mark our 17th year as a combined telephone and electric cooperative. Our cooperative continues to grow and adapt to the challenges of a changing community with new opportunities.

In the past two years, the cooperative has seen close to a 30 percent change in staff, due largely to retirement. Of those new to our cooperative—including myself—we filled two department head seats and the general manager's seat, twice. To weather the level of change and continue to provide quality service took exceptional commitment, a team effort from the entire staff and the board of directors.

Over the past year, we were able to complete several important projects, including service upgrade to Icicle Seafood, fiber extension along Waskey Road, a microwave upgrade to Clark's Point and Manokotak, initiation of an electronic billing system, and commissioning geographic information system-based plant mapping.

Currently, we are evaluating several projects that could have significant impact on our cooperative and surrounding communities. One in particular has the potential to make a dramatic change. Project 2117 is a hydroelectric power generation project that would harness power from Nuyakuk Falls. Preliminary estimates show there would be enough production potential to power all the communities on the Nushagak River in addition to meeting our current needs. A side benefit could be access to middle-mile fiber optics, greatly improving broadband access.

Our strategic planning efforts are focused on finding ways to keep costs down and service levels up for our member/owners. Examples of this include scheduling generator maintenance to leverage cost reductions and negotiating better internet package pricing to reduce costs to our members. You can help also, by signing up for Ebill to receive your bill online instead of in the mail. This will reduce the cost to produce and mail paper bills.

In closing, please join our board of directors and our employees at the 17th Annual Meeting on March 27. This is your meeting and we welcome your input.

Robert Himschoot
CEO/General Manager

This message is also included in the Annual Meeting package being mailed directly to members.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

4005 23rd Street
P.O. Box 226
Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 523-3616

567 West Pierce
Burns, OR 97720
(541) 573-2666

400 Patterson Bridge Road
P.O. Box 575
John Day, OR 97845
(541) 575-0161

2408 Cove Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 963-3155

www.otecc.com
editor@otecc.com

**Report Outages at
(866) 430-4265**

.....

Officers/Directors:

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Bingaman, Union County
Vice President Charlene
Chase, Baker County
Sec./Treas. Wayne Overton,
Baker County

David Baum, Union County
Aletha Bonebrake, Baker
County
Robert Cargill, Harney County
George Galloway, Union
County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, General Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Don't Miss the Annual Meeting April 14

On behalf of your cooperative and the board of directors, I would like to invite you to our 30th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, April 14, at 10 a.m. at the Harney County Fairgrounds in Burns.

If you had the opportunity to attend OTEC's 2017 annual meeting, you heard about the previous year's capital investments, maintenance, impacts from the harsh winter, political activity, renewable energy, the Bonneville Power Administration, and how our rates compare across the state and nation.

The annual meeting is another opportunity to hear about the health of your cooperative and the direction and activities underway to fulfill our mission as we deliver power to more than 30,000 locations across our four counties. You will receive updates from your board of directors, management and a review of our annual report.

The annual meeting is an opportunity to directly participate in the governance of your cooperative by casting your vote during the election of representatives of the board of directors. In addition to the election, we will discuss the challenges and successes of your cooperative during the past year, and activities planned for 2018 and beyond.

We'll highlight your cooperative's commitment to community with an overview of our charitable contributions and youth-focused programs—such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library—which are funded through unclaimed capital credits earmarked for community improvement. Local youth will share their experience at the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learned about the power of the cooperative network at a national level and how that supports us here at home.

Since last year, we have finalized our strategic plan, and will share key aspects of that plan that focus on our service to our members/owners. The strategy adopted by our board of directors is member-centric, and focuses our team on delivering safe, reliable and competitively priced power while striving to better serve our members and communities in innovative ways.

Please join us to help celebrate 30 years of service at our 30th Annual Meeting of the Members.



Les Penning
CEO and General Manager





Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

34014 Mountain Highway E.
Eatonville, WA 98328

Phone: (253) 847-4363
Power problems: (253) 847-4363
Pay by phone: (888) 477-8085

Email: office@ohop.coop
www.ohop.coop

Board of Directors

President Jerry Walter
Vice President Mel Cox
Sec./Treasurer Isabella Deditch
Director Frank Hoffman

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Washington's one-call center, or your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.

**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
Washington's statewide one-call center**



TANNER ELECTRIC *Co o p e r a t i v e*

45710 SE North Bend Way
P.O. Box 1426
North Bend, WA 98045-1426
Telephone: (425) 888-0623
Toll-free: (800) 472-0208
www.tannerelectric.coop

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Steve Walter

Chief Financial Officer

Rob Carr

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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Vice President Kendel Lyman
Treasurer Mike Hodge
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Roger Guay
Jeff Gillette
Dutch Siedentopf
Paul Bay
Mark Dilger

*An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:*

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

*Tanner Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and
employer*

WA-50

Growing Up Co-op

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Tanner Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community-centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

Tanner Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it back to our members—that's you—in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

Because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and local youth programs.

I hope you view Tanner Electric Cooperative not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the co-op or give us a call. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way!

Steve Walter
General Manager



Parkland Light & Water Company

Owned By
Those We Serve

12918 Park Ave.
P.O. Box 44426
Tacoma, WA 98448-0426
(253) 531-5666

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thu, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elaine Walter - President
Charles Nelson - Vice President
Gary Hauenstein - Secretary
Gary Grazzini - Treasurer
Janet Detering - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

*Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative*

To report an outage or utility
emergency, call the main office 24/7.

To track an outage, follow us on
Twitter @PLWCo.

WA-52

One Trustee to be Elected at the Annual Meeting

As this issue of Ruralite goes to press, the incumbent is the only announced candidate for the trustee position

Elaine Walter was appointed to the Parkland Light & Water Co. board March 23, 1993. She is the first woman to be a trustee.

Elaine has lived in the Parkland area all of her life, and taught at Fife High School for 30 years.

Elaine received her bachelor's degree in business education at Pacific Lutheran University and her master's in business at Oregon State University. With her establishment in the community and educational background, Elaine brings a wealth of ideas and information to the board.

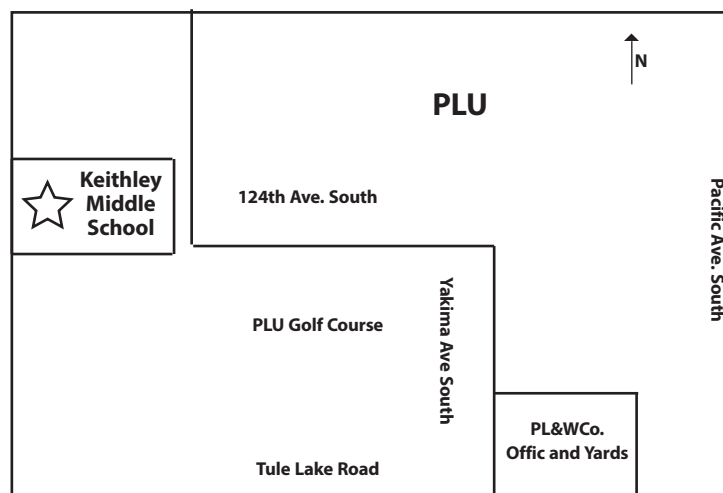
The open position on the board is for a regular five-year term. Candidates can be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote for the candidate of their choice. PL&WCo. needs member participation to remain a strong, functioning mutual utility.

Please consider attending your annual meeting Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m., at Keithley Middle School. A special invitation is extended to those who have never done so. The annual meeting is more than a business meeting. It is a celebration of the membership.



Elaine Walter

Map to Annual Meeting





495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216
Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
(503) 728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

Office Hours: 8 am to 5 pm
Monday through Friday

Please call to report outages
(503) 728-2163

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Bob Wiggins, President
Merle Gillespie, Vice President
Linda A. Hooper, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #12111005

If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

March 1: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

March 2 & 3: CAC Missoula Children's

Theatre presents The Wiz of the West

Clatskanie Middle/High School, March
2nd at 7:30 pm and March 3rd 3:00 pm

March 8: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 21: Clatskanie PUD Board

Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

Bulky Waste Day in Clatskanie: Mark
your calendars now for the 16th Annual
Clatskanie Bulky Waste Cleanup Day
April 7, 2018 8 am to Noon

OR-60

I Can Dig It! Once used as '70s slang, it also fits during the Spring and Summer months for those who become anxiously engaged in; gardening, landscaping, construction projects, the honey-do lists, road repairs, and so forth. It is a time of concern for us as we inevitably incur outages from those who dig where our power lines are located. This creates a safety hazard and puts lives in jeopardy. It also causes additional work for our crews who have to drop everything to go repair the line and restore power to our affected customers. To save us all from harm, and save time and money, let me remind you to call 811 before you dig.



The 811 number is a national "Call Before You Dig" phone number designated by the FCC to eliminate the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers. It helps save lives, costs, and minimize damages to underground utilities. The call will be directed to a local "One Call Center" where personnel will notify affected utility companies, who will send crews to mark underground lines for free. Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig helps prevent injury, expense, and penalties. Statistics show that only 52% of people planning to dig are likely to call to have lines marked before digging. The person causing the damage to underground facilities (it is the same for telephone, gas, electric, cable) will be charged for the repair of the facilities if they have not called before they dig. They will also be subject to enforcement actions by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for the first violation and up to \$5,000 for each subsequent violation. Intentional violations have even larger penalties. So, let's all be safe and call the 811 number before any digging around underground utility lines. It will end up saving us all a lot of time, money, and possible injuries.

On the same token, it is also a time that a lot of folks trim or fall trees on their property. We invariably end up putting lines back up that someone has dropped a tree across or a limb has fallen upon. If you are falling any trees that have the potential of falling across our power lines, please notify us and we can make arrangements to drop the line until the tree is down. It is free if we drop the line, but it will cost you if you drop the line. We charge the full costs of repairs to anyone who damages any of our lines by negligence. If you notice limbs or trees that pose an imminent danger to our lines, please give us a call so we can notify our tree trimmers to put it on their schedule. This will help us be proactive rather than reactive and have to come out during a storm or at after hours to repair a downed or damaged line.

Together, we can keep our lines and our people safe, our costs down, and the system up and on. Thank you for helping us to help you.

Marc Farmer
General Manager



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

P.O. Box 44
Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-3491
(Fax) (907) 442-2482

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Martin Shroyer

Kotzebue Electric Association Inc., a locally owned utility dedicated to cooperative principles, will make electric energy, and other value-added utility services and products available to its members' at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic and management practices, which improves utility services and the quality of life in our service area.

AK-64

Notice to Members Regarding 2018 KEA Annual Meeting

The KEA Annual Meeting is Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. The location was not available at press time. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Members are advised that mail-in ballots will be sent by mail in early March. To be counted, these ballots must be received at the KEA office or post office box by noon Friday, March 30, 2018. Ballots received after this time will not be counted.

If members want to change their ballot vote, they must do so by coming to the KEA office and picking up their mailed ballot. Members who have voted by mail and have not taken back their ballot by the deadline cannot vote on the issue of directors at the meeting. Members who do not vote by mail can vote at the meeting.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the KEA office.



Don't miss the Kotzebue Electric Annual Meeting, where you can learn about what your co-op is doing and eat a free meal and possibly win a prize.

Photo by Seth Kantner



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Mountain Village

Vice Chairman

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

Secretary

Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor

Treasurer

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

Directors

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Walter G. Sampson, Noorvik

board@avec.org

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Ambler	Nightmute
Andreafsky	Noatak
Anvik	Noorvik
Bethel	Nulato
Brevig Mission	Nunapitchuk
Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscarville
Ekwok	Pilot Station
Elim	Pitkas Point
Emmonak	Quinhagak
Gambell	Russian Mission
Goodnews Bay	St. Mary's
Grayling	St. Michael
Holy Cross	Savoonga
Hooper Bay	Scammon Bay
Huslia	Selawik
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	Stebbins
Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-1818
(800) 478-1818



AK-105

Are Your Electronics Protected?

Late last year, several major storms swept across the state. Electric systems were impacted in many communities, including several served by AVEC. AVEC's linemen and generation technicians traveled from community to community, responding to outages ranging from entire communities to individual members whose services were damaged by flying debris.

In the weeks following the storms, AVEC received insurance claims from members in some of the impacted communities. In some cases, it was reported that an appliance had failed several weeks after an outage event. In some cases, we were told a device had "exploded" or "popped" after an outage.

AVEC maintains high levels of liability and property insurance to provide protection against damages of all kinds. AVEC consumers are protected against damage caused by AVEC's actions or negligence. There is no coverage for items damaged due to natural events such as storms—because there is nothing AVEC can do to prevent such events. Following is language from the tariff:

"The Utility will not be liable for any injury, casualty, or damage resulting in any way from the supply or use of electricity or from the presence or operation of the Utility's structures, equipment, wires, conduit, appliances, or devices on the customer's premises except injuries or damages resulting from the negligence of the Utility in matters within its reasonable control.

"It is the customer's responsibility to provide suitable protective devices for the equipment on the customer's premises. The customer is cautioned that due to economic considerations, Utility power is furnished by relatively small, largely unattended power plants and power quality may not be as good as on larger, manned systems. Where the customer requires a degree of regulation of the electric service greater than that furnished by the Utility, the customer will be responsible for obtaining, installing, and maintaining the required regulating and suitable protective equipment when utilizing equipment subject to damage by voltage or frequency excursions which may develop on these systems.

"Surge protection and power conditioning should be used for all sensitive electronic equipment. Sensitive electronic equipment includes, but is not limited to, personal computers and all related computer equipment, entertainment equipment such as televisions and stereo equipment, and heating appliances such as monitor and Toyostoves. Sensitive electronic equipment damage claims for equipment that is not protected by auxiliary devices will not be reviewed."

Electronic appliances such as televisions, computers and Toyostoves are expensive and difficult to repair. Protect your devices appropriately and consider whole-home surge protection. Check your home insurance policy to make sure your appliances are covered. AVEC insurance will not cover damages that are not a direct result of AVEC actions.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





65 S. Roop St.
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone (530) 257-4174
Fax (530) 257-2558
www.lmud.org

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David Ernaga, Treasurer
Daren Hagata
Jess Urionaguena

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General Manager

Doug C. Smith

Assistant General Manager

Pat Holley

Administrative Services Manager

Karen Rollings

Electric Operations Manager

Cort Cortez

Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

In case of an outage: If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 257-4174. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekend calls are answered by a local service and immediately forwarded to standby personnel.

*The board meets at 5:30 p.m.
the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

CA-106



An LMUD Scholarship Can Help You Pay For College

Are you attending a college, trade school or university in the fall? Lassen Municipal Utility District may be able to help you pay for school. LMUD offers two \$1,500 scholarships in a pro-gram to enhance the education and resulting careers of deserving local students.

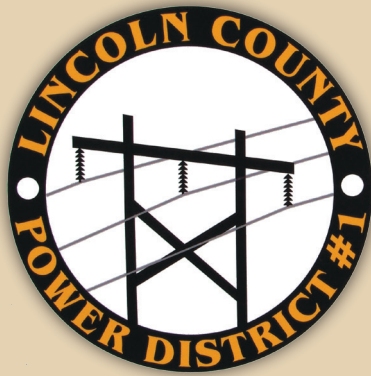
Scholarships will be offered to students who live in a residence served by LMUD.

Applications are available at the LMUD office at 65 S. Roop St., or can be downloaded from our website, www.lmud.org.

Return the application with a completed essay from one of the topics listed on the application, along with a resume detailing your goals, hobbies, activities, awards and achievements. Applications may be hand-delivered to the LMUD office, or you can mail it to:

Lassen Municipal Utility District, Attn: Scholarship Program, 65 S. Roop St., Susanville, CA 96130.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018.



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

HC 74, Box 101
Pioche, NV 89043

Phone: (775) 962-5122
Toll free: (888) 649-3814

Email: lcprd@lcprd1.com

DIRECTORS

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David Luttrell

Board meets the
second Monday
of each month



MISSION STATEMENT

*To construct, operate and maintain
a system which will provide
our customers with electric service
in the most economical and
efficient manner consistent with
sound business practice.*

NV-107

November Brings Important Choices Affecting You

If you are like me, you likely don't remember all of the candidates and initiatives on the 2016 general election ballot. But one of those ballot measures has the potential to radically change the way you receive electric service. Listed as Question 3 on the 2016 ballot, it was also called the Energy Choice Initiative. Question 3 read: "Shall Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to require the Legislature to provide by law for the establishment of an open, competitive retail electric energy market that prohibits the granting of monopolies and exclusive franchises for the generation of electricity?"

The explanation of Question 3 said: "Yes vote would amend Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution so that the Legislature would be required to pass a law by July 1, 2023, that creates an open and competitive retail electric market and that includes provisions to reduce costs to customers, protect against service disconnections and unfair practices, and prohibit the granting of monopolies and exclusive franchises for the generation of electricity."

Who could vote against a ballot measure that seems to imply electric costs could be lower by simply voting yes? Statewide, the measure passed with 72.4 percent in favor. In Lincoln County, 54.7 percent voted in favor. However, to amend the Nevada constitution, a ballot question must pass twice. Therefore, the exact same ballot question will appear on the general election ballot next November. If it passes again, it will take effect.

Since 2016, I have spoken with many members about the first election, trying to understand why so many voted yes. Many believed the proposed change would only apply to those served by the big investor-owned utility in Las Vegas. Most did not understand what they were voting for.

Question 3 is a proposed constitutional amendment that affects everyone in Nevada. Make no mistake, if the Energy Choice Initiative passes next November, it will impact Lincoln County. The second point will take longer to address. In the next few editions of Ruralite, I will provide a complete picture of the impacts of the Energy Choice Initiative on Lincoln County. My goal is to make sure you understand the implications of your vote, and how Question 3 could change the district and your electric service.

The Energy Choice Initiative was largely created by a political action committee called Nevadans for Affordable Clean Energy Choices. As reported in the February 5 edition of the Nevada Independent, funding for the work has "... largely been bankrolled by a handful of major Southern Nevada companies, primarily the Las Vegas Sands (\$2.35 million) and Switch (\$1.7 million), with smaller donations coming from Valley Electric Association (\$100,000) and MGM Resorts (\$10,000). Retired Democratic Sen. Harry Reid also endorsed the measure."

It is clear from the list of proponents this measure did not originate with residential customers, small businesses, ranchers, farmers or anyone from rural Nevada. In fact, Republican state Sen. Pete Goicoechea, one of rural Nevada's good friends, recently stated his opposition to the Energy Choice Initiative.

Next month, we will delve deeper into Question 3. Until then, if you have questions or if you would like to arrange for me to speak to a group regarding the Energy Choice Initiative, please call the office.

—David Luttrell, General Manager



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OR-400

Case in Point

How's it going to end? As a former fiction writer, that's the question I wanted my readers to be asking, breathlessly turning pages to reach the conclusion.

There is nothing like a good thriller to keep you up late into the night, and thrillers come in all forms. The Oregon Legislature has created some suspense of its own during the 35-day session, particularly with respect to cap-and-trade legislation that is the subject of the feature on pages 4-5 this month.

To be sure, putting a price on carbon in Oregon is a heavy lift in the short session. There is little time to conduct the type of analysis needed to thoroughly examine the legislation's impact on Oregonians. However, I have seen major environmental legislation passed in Oregon's short session. It can be done.

Oregon's electric cooperatives have expressed serious concerns about the state of Oregon's carbon policies. On one hand, they want to cap emissions on utilities and industry. On the other hand, state agencies have no problem devaluing Oregon's greatest asset against climate change: our federal hydroelectric system.

It's this misalignment, along with other issues, that led us to urge the legislature not to pass the cap-and-trade legislation in the short session. But, as of this writing, the bill is alive in the Rules Committee in the House and Senate. Does the bill have the votes to pass? Will the bill's sponsors make concessions to make the bill more palatable? No one knows, and the tension is enough to keep an army of lobbyists up all night wondering how this is going to end.

Saying Goodbye

Oregon lost a great leader and a real gentleman last month when Ray Baum died due to complications from prostate cancer.

Ray had a sterling resume: lawyer, legislator, utility commissioner and, as his last role, the staff director of Chairman Greg Walden's Energy and Commerce Committee—the most powerful committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. But for all his success in Salem and Washington, D.C., Ray never lost his Eastern Oregon sensibility or his infectious sense of humor. Ray's brother Dave—a true statesman in his own right—is on the board of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.



Ted Case

Executive Director

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ March 11, daylight saving time begins.
- ▶ May 22, director candidate petitions due.
- ▶ July 21, annual membership meeting.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

March and April Congratulations!

- ▶ Jennifer Miller 4 years
- ▶ Tami Slusher 27 years
- ▶ Shawn Trento 2 Years

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A Message from the Manager

Beneficial Electrification

It's common for us to talk about the benefits of our technologies in human terms. For example, a discussion of transportation will include the ease of getting ourselves from one point to another quickly, conveniently and cheaply. The frustration of air traffic delays takes away from all this at times, but travel is mostly a thoroughly modern luxury now.

The electrification of our society is a technology that continues to be taken for granted. We assume the lights will come on, the clothes will be washed and our homes will be at just the right temperature, all on time and as expected. These modern benefits are supposed to be completely reliable and affordable, too.

Our bulk electric system delivers. A kilowatt-hour is still one of the best buys around. Consider this: One kilowatt-hour (1,000 watts used for 1 hour) is the equivalent of 2,655,223.74 foot-pounds (a one pound weight lifted 1 foot). To put this another way, for roughly 15 cents worth of electric energy, you can lift a Ford Pinto (curb weight of 2,100 lbs.) 1,264 feet in the air. That's 14 feet higher than the Empire State Building.

To be completely honest, I have no idea why you would actually want to do this to a Ford Pinto, and the chances of finding one still running these days is pretty slim. However, should you find a real need to get your Pinto to the top of the Empire State Building, it's going to be cheaper to use electricity to do it than it would be to drive it there.

Obviously, there is a whole host of better things to do with your electricity. For instance, we tend to think of consumer electronics as the obvious go-to beneficial use of electric energy these days. Power your mobile devices, get connected to the internet, talk to your smart home remotely are all great examples of beneficial electrification. The possibilities are as limitless as the human imagination.

As our mission here at the cooperative evolves, we will constantly be seeking better and more effective uses of electric resources for our members. We'll still be focused on keeping our costs low while maintaining high availability and reliability, and searching for ever more beneficial uses of our energy resources to make our lives better.

While I don't suggest you try the Pinto experiment, try to keep in mind all of the amazing things we can do in our lives with this great energy resource at our service.

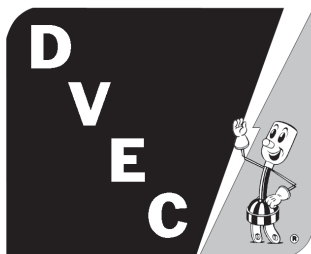


Kevin Short

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Steven Lunt—CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

March 19
April 16
May 21

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

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Incorporated June 1947**



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The power of human connections

CEO's Message

Keeping in Touch

"When we put our hands on each other, we're tapping into deep associations between touch and emotion that are kindled at the dawn of life." —Dr. David Linden, professor of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University.

Most of us understand at a very base level the importance of the sense of touch in our daily lives. The tragedy and triumph of Helen Keller comes to mind as a symbol for overcoming deafness and blindness using the sense of touch. Keller's breakthrough moment happened as Anne Sullivan, her teacher, patiently spelled out the letters w-a-t-e-r in the palm of one hand while running cool water over the other.

Babies born without sight or hearing can adapt and develop into productive adults. Yet babies who are deprived of touch have psychological and intellectual difficulties, and their immune and digestive systems do not develop properly.

We use everyday phrases that relate to the sense of touch. Our phones have contact lists. We bid others to keep in touch. We touch base with friends, family and co-workers.

Human contact is implied

even without the act of touching.

Two "touch" phrases come to mind in my field of work. "Touchstone" and "touch point."

A touchstone is a small tablet made from particular minerals that when a precious metal is rubbed across its surface it leaves a visible trace. By comparing the color of the mark with a known purity, one can assay the purity of the precious metal being tested.

A touch point is an opportunity for an organization or person to have an interaction with another. Touch points reinforce our ideas and feelings about others. Positive touch points make us want to continue relationships.

Twenty years ago, cooperatives across the nation wanted to get the message out about the values and principles that cooperatives strive for in serving their members. The cooperatives selected Touchstone Energy as a brand name to demonstrate our commitment to a "gold



Steven Lunt

standard" of service to our communities.

This national brand has a tagline of "The Power of Human Connections." We realize the strength in humans

coming together and working for a

common cause. We certainly see this in our communities and among other cooperatives as we work to improve the lives of our members.

As your cooperative, we look for positive touch point opportunities with our members. For 70 years, Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative has been holding annual meetings. Our next one is April 25. We hope you will be there and touch base with us. I like the opportunity to keep in touch with you. I also look forward to sharing a few things we are doing to improve the community we work for.

I invite you to come and shake hands with a friend. See you there.

—Steven Lunt



Electrical District No. 2

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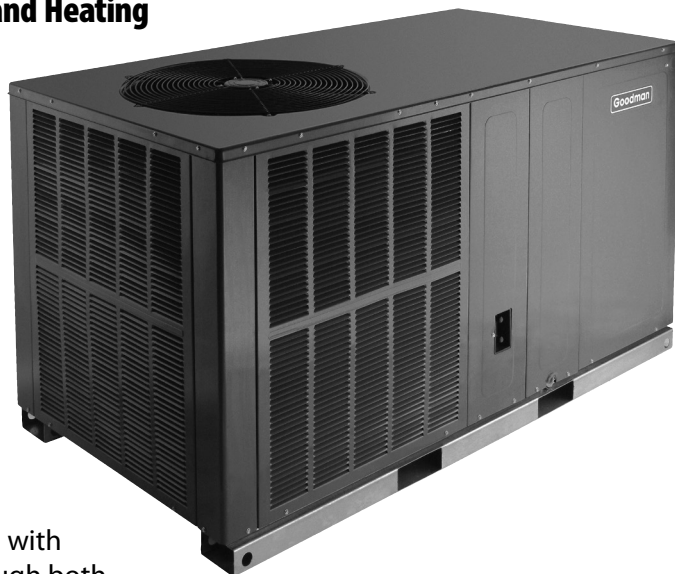
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ED2 is a full-service electric utility serving the greater Casa Grande Valley of Pinal County—including in and around the cities of Coolidge, Florence and Casa Grande—since 1923.

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Replacing your air conditioning and heating system can cost several thousand dollars. Protect the investment you have in your existing system with regular maintenance—through both do-it-yourself measures and professional inspections. To prevent an expensive repair bill, keep the outdoor condenser unit free from debris, and clean or change the air filter once a month. Periodically hire a trained technician to check refrigerant levels and mechanical operations.

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning and Heating's preventative maintenance plan provides you with a 25-point tune-up and professional cleaning twice a year, and offers discounts on repairs. Tri-Cor services all makes and models of equipment, and has plans available for both residential and commercial customers. For more details, including pricing, call Tri-Cor and schedule an appointment with one of our service technicians. Your energy savings could exceed the cost of your preventative service agreement.

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

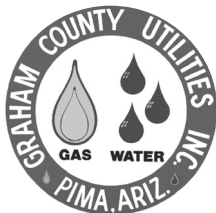
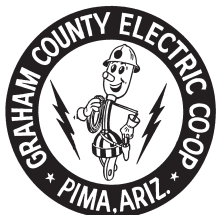
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Manager's Message

Disruptive Innovation

Disruptive innovation is a term that refers to an innovation or technological breakthrough that creates a new market or value in the marketplace that eventually disrupts an existing market. The electric utility industry is experiencing a disruptive innovation with the development and deployment of renewable energy resources.

Graham County Electric Cooperative has been providing electric energy distribution services for more than 70 years. During the past 10 years, distributed generation technology has become economically feasible as an alternative to traditional electric service in Graham County.

Just as in the 1940s, GCEC is here to provide economical energy solutions for its members.

In keeping with the 73 years of service to the members, GCEC is pleased to announce a strategic partnership between GCEC, Sun Pumps Inc. and National Cooperative Bank. This partnership will deliver cost-effective energy solutions and provide the most reliable service available to the membership.

Sun Pumps is a locally owned and operated business that has been in the Gila Valley for 30 years. Sun Pumps is dedicated to providing



distributed generation solutions such as roof-top solar or ground-mounted solar systems that most appropriately fit the needs of members.

National Cooperative Bank is a cooperative lending institution that provides residential financing for solar or home-energy upgrades. The advantage of financing with National Cooperative Bank is the interest may be tax deductible.

As this disruptive business cycle matures, GCEC is the members' obvious choice to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric energy solutions. GCEC has been providing services for 73 years and we will be here for many more. GCEC's mission statement is "We are committed to provide safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve." This statement is our guiding principle.

If you are considering a solar energy solution, we encourage you to contact GCEC to discuss your options. We are here to provide energy solutions to our member/owners well into the future.

—Kirk Gray

FLORIDA Currents

Members acknowledge that \$3.96, plus actual postage, is the cost to publish 12 issues a year of **Florida Currents** (USPS-8300). Published by Ruralite Services Inc., 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124—a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative corporation—the magazine serves the communications needs of consumer-owned electric utilities in Florida. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, OR 97123 and at additional mailing offices.

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EREC
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Manager's Message

Find Ways to Save With EREC's Energy-Efficiency Programs

As a member of Escambia River Electric Cooperative, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy-efficiency programs offered by the co-op. Because we are a not-for-profit organization, our goal is to provide safe, reliable power at the most affordable price for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

How do efficiency habits save you money? It's common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower. But there's more to it than that.

EREC buys electricity from PowerSouth Energy Cooperative—a local generation and transmission cooperative. When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we buy. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you help reduce the demand, lowering the overall cost. As a co-op, we pass those savings directly to you.

Let's look at some of the ways you can save.

- Basic energy-efficiency practices—caulking around windows and doors, turning off lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat—are a great start.
- EREC also offers an energy-efficiency financing program. The loan program helps



Clay R. Campbell

our members finance energy-efficiency improvements such as heating and cooling systems, insulation, sealing, ventilation, water heating, windows and doors. Through an agreement with Regions Bank, eligible members can take advantage of low-interest loans to finance qualified improvements.

- When you use electricity is just as important as how much you use.

Most households use larger amounts mornings and evenings—when people are getting ready for their day or returning home. Remember that peak demand charge? This can be avoided by lowering energy use during on-peak hours, when electricity is in high demand.

• EREC offers a home energy use analysis. Our energy experts can assess meter data to determine valuable information about your energy use. We can tell you about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LEDs and more.

EREC is proud to offer these energy-efficiency programs for you, our members, and to be your trusted energy resource.

For more about energy-efficiency programs and tips, contact EREC at (850) 675-4521 or visit www.erec.com. ■



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Feed the workhorses responsible for our food production.

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MARCH 2018

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

FKEC's Annual Meeting & Picnic will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Coral Shores High School. Registration opens 11:00AM. Free to all members.

Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:
Nikki Dunn Cullen • news@fkec.com
Edited by: Rebecca Callahan Newman

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Representing Your Values and Interests

While FKEC is an independent organization owned by you, its members, your co-op works in cooperation with other co-ops to lobby for proper government representation, defend common interests, and share resources at a state and national level.

To do this, FKEC is a part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), an organization dedicated to representing the interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve on a federal level.

FKEC is also a member of the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA), a state-level organization, which works to ensure fair representation for co-ops in Florida. FECA's member system includes 15 electric distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, and each utility member fills two seats on the FECA board.

Currently FKEC Director Craig Belcher and I represent the interests of our members and the cooperative as a whole on the FECA board. FKEC Director Gretchen Holland serves as an alternate director, and has also filled a seat on the board in the past. I've been on the board since 2006, and served as president



of the FECA Board of Directors from 2014-2016.

We meet with our fellow FECA electric co-ops in Tallahassee throughout the year to discuss matters and policies that effect our industry. Once a year we also meet for a legislative cookout. This event, which has grown since starting many years ago as a sort of tailgate picnic in Tallahassee, is the opportunity to stay connected to the legislators who represent us. Although the cookout is no longer a tailgate party, it continues to stay true to the hometown values and principles each of our electric cooperatives was founded on. It is these values we are there to exemplify and reiterate to our elected officials.

Being a part of these organizations enables us to collectively represent and defend the values and interests of our members, as well as maintain the integrity and principles that define the cooperative way of doing business.

Together, Florida electric co-ops provide reliable and affordable electricity to more than 1,000,000 members in 58 of Florida's 67 counties.



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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. March 29 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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FL-153

CEO's Message

Annual Meeting Reminder

Please join us on March 17 for the 73rd Annual Meeting

We are shoring up details of the cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting, and I want to take this last opportunity to extend another invitation for you to join us. This year's event is Saturday, March 17 at Moore Haven Middle-High School. Doors open at 8 a.m. A map on page 4 shows you the way. Business and prize drawings should be done by 11 a.m., which gives you plenty of time to round out your day and mosey down the road to Clewiston to enjoy the annual Sugarcane Festival.

Who knows? You could be driving there in a new (to you) 2005 Ford Expedition. It is the grand prize in our drawing.

I'm pleased to report that Lisa Johnson, CEO of Seminole Electric Cooperative Inc., will be keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting. In our world of energy, it seems changes are coming at the speed of light. Under Lisa's leadership, Seminole—our partner and power provider—has been very proactive in keeping on top of these matters, always looking out for our future needs. Lisa has had a plan in the works the past few years to provide reliable and affordable power in the 2021 time frame. She will update us on the culmination of that plan.

Please join us. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. Remember to wear your green, as it is also St. Patrick's Day.



Jeff Brewington



One lucky member will win this used vehicle at the end of the Glades Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.



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Electric Cooperative

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Betty Moore

Trustees normally meet the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. CST. The board meets at the Wewahitchka office in even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and December) and the Southport office in odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November).

The mission of GCEC: Fulfilling the changing needs of our membership and communities by providing cost effective, reliable and safe utility services through a dedicated and responsive workforce.

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GCEC President's Message

2018 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey Coming

At Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, our mission is to meet your needs while providing you reliable energy services at the lowest possible cost. To serve you better, we need a little feedback. That's why we are conducting the 2018 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey the first quarter 2018. We want to find out how well we currently meet your needs and how we can improve.

GCEC has partnered with research firm Inside Information Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri, to conduct the survey via telephone and online to measure your:

- Attitudes and perceptions toward GCEC.
- Satisfaction with and loyalty to your cooperative.
- Perception on energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental issues.
- New product/service offerings.
- Use of technology/personal communication opportunities (social media, texts, mobile apps, etc.).
- Demographics.

During the survey, a randomly selected group of members will be asked to respond to questions that will allow us to determine ways we can enhance our member service to better suit your needs. Randomly selected members will receive postcards in the mail asking them to complete an online survey, or take part in a telephone interview later.

The survey includes a series of questions that rate the reliability, value and quality of our service; our commitment to community; our concern for the environment; our ability to restore power following an outage; how well we communicate with you; and other questions to help us gauge the quality of our service.

All information we gather during the interviews will be kept strictly confidential and not be shared with third parties.

By participating in this short survey, you will help us by providing your thoughts about GCEC, while helping us make important decisions about providing you reliable power and exceptional member service.

After all, at Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, our members are the owners, and we are here to serve you.

For questions about the 2018 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey, contact Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative at 639-2216.



Waylon Graham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



TO REPORT POWER OUTAGE

- Use the SmartHub app
- Text OUT to 8002823824
- Call 1-800-282-3824

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
Wauchula, Florida 33873
Telephone: 1-800-282-3824
Fax: 866-201-1814

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
Telephone: 1-800-282-3824
Fax: 941-752-4928

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maurice Henderson
PRESIDENT

Chris Portale
VICE PRESIDENT

Willie Dawes
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ellen Bachman
ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hollis Albritton
DIRECTOR

Leonard Crawley
DIRECTOR

John Martin
DIRECTOR

Kenneth Oden
DIRECTOR

Bruce Vickers
DIRECTOR

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

Any PRECO member may attend a Board Meeting. Due to building security requirements and for us to facilitate attendance, members wishing to attend a Board Meeting should contact the Cooperative in a timely manner for logistical information regarding the meeting.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

March 27, 2018
April 24, 2018
May 22, 2018

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Be Our Guest Come to PRECO's 78th Annual Meeting

At Peace River Electric Cooperative, you are a member and owner of the co-op. That means you are part of our family. Once a year, we invite our family to experience a day of fun. We call it "Annual Meeting."

This month, we're celebrating 78 years of service and we are asking you to join us.

How did all of this get started? In 1940, a local group of rural residents wanted to enjoy the benefits that electricity would bring to their homes. They banded together to form PRECO under the guidelines of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Every year since then, we've held Annual Meetings for our members.

What can you expect?

- Free hot dogs, fries, soft drinks, ice cream, popcorn and more
- A children's play area
- A brief business meeting to learn important co-op information
- Door prize drawings
- A \$10 electric bill credit for every registered account

We encourage you to visit the many informational booths on site. You'll find civic and community groups eager to explain their role in the local community and the services they offer.

Expect to hear a great lineup of musical guests:

- Tommy Brandt, 2017 Inspirational Country Music Entertainer of the Year, and his son, Tommy Brandt II, who recently debuted at the Grand Ole Opry
- The McMillans. A bluegrass and southern gospel singing family
- Manatee River Bluegrass Band. A local favorite vocal group

Save the date. Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17th. See page 4 of this magazine for full details.

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m., business meeting at 1:00 p.m., with door prize drawings at the close of the day.

Please join us as we celebrate the Co-op's 78th year.



Randy Shaw
General Manager & CEO
PEACE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Randy